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Karpov, German Commissioner Discuss Disarmament

LD1411195990 Moscow TASS in English 1908 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Moscow November 14 TASS—Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Karpov and Commissioner of the Federal Government on Disarmament and Arms Control Josef Holik today held regular Soviet-German consultations on disarmament issues.

They discussed progress in drafting a treaty on conventional armed forces in Europe and a document on confidence-building measures.

In the context of prospects for European disarmament, the sides discussed the continuation of the Vienna talks and the start of negotiations on tactical nuclear weapons.

They also examined issues of strategic offensive weapons and chemical arms.

TASS Commentator Views START Negotiations

LD1411145290 Moscow TASS in English 1416 GMT 14 Nov 90

[By TASS military analyst Vladimir Chernyshev]

[Text] Moscow November 14 TASS—Conservatives and liberals in the United States are now aglow with debating whether the U.S.- Soviet strategic arms reduction negotiations are a relic of the rapidly vanishing cold war.

U.S. chief negotiator in Geneva Richard Burt said, in an article published by THE WASHINGTON POST, that it would be a grave mistake to let the START negotiations recede into the background.

Burt believes that the reduction of strategic nuclear arsenals is pivotal for strengthening strategic stability. Another potential result of the Geneva talks seems to be even more important. It can impose stiff restrictions on the quantity of strategic offensive forces and place them under a detailed mutual control of both sides.

Another idea of Burt's also rings true: Without the START treaty, considerable tension may develop in Soviet-American relations and a new rivalry may spring up in nuclear weapons. True, the American negotiator seeks to reduce the situation to the activity of one side. According to him, the Soviet Union continues to develop and deploy new strategic nuclear weapons.

This one-sided approach hardly conforms to reality. Has the United States cancelled a single of its numerous strategic plans? It is more objective to note that the future treaty would restrict both Soviet and American potential for building up their strategic forces.

The Soviet Union has long been calling on all nuclear powers to ban nuclear arms completely. It has repeatedly avowed its readiness to exclude nuclear weapons from any variants of defence sufficiency and build its Armed Forces without nuclear arms if other nuclear powers embark simultaneously on the same path.

The basis of the plan for the stage-by-stage reduction of nuclear weapons, with their complete elimination by the year 2000, was set out in the Soviet leader's statement on January 15, 1986.

The existing treaty on intermediate missile forces and the Soviet-American treaty on strategic offensive weapons, which is being prepared in Geneva, fit in organically into this plan.

Moscow has also proposed incorporating yet another, intermediary stage into its plan for building a nuclear-free world—a stage of minimal nuclear deterrence.

Those who believe that the START negotiations can be allowed to sink into the background, are in effect seeking to disrupt the dynamic nuclear arsenal reduction process or even to reverse it.

Petrovskiy Interviewed on Disarmament Issues

PM1411095390 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Nov 90 First Edition p 5

[Interview with USSR Deputy Foreign Minister V.F. Petrovskiy by correspondent Al. Stepanov: "Disarmament Is a Global Matter"]

[Text] The ongoing 45th session of the UN General Assembly in New York is actively discussing disarmament problems. A PRAVDA correspondent discussed our country's position on the fundamental question of international relations with V.F. Petrovskiy, deputy head of the USSR delegation and deputy foreign minister.

[Stepanov] Vladimir Fedorovich, on entering a peaceful period in its development, mankind is shedding surplus weapons. An unprecedented agreement between the USSR and the United States on a significant reduction of strategic offensive armaments is in the offing. Europe is on the verge of an accord on the radical reduction of military potentials and is prepared to embark in the very near future on the elaboration of qualitatively different principles for safeguarding regional security, which do not involve force. So is the era of confrontation a thing of the past?

[Petrovskiy] You are right, signs of positive change are appearing wherever the desire for dialogue and cooperation breaks through. The concept of a new internationalism, implying reliance on consensus, collective action, the primacy of international law, the mobilization of the potential of all multilateral mechanisms—regional and universal—with the United Nations playing the central role, is forming in the world community's consciousness.

But it would be a mistake to view today's world in a purely optimistic light. It is characterized more by Rembrandtesque colors, strong and bright, but, at the same time, severe and dramatic, filled with the entire gamut of

objective reality. But this reality is Iraq's unprovoked aggression against Kuwait. So violence and war have not yet become a tragic thing of the past, but are still seen by some as a functional attribute of politics.

However, I am convinced that the international community is on the verge of being able to confidently look forward to a qualitatively new world order. The pioneers of the curtailment of the arms race—the USSR and the United States—are stepping up the pace dramatically. Bilateral Soviet-American disarmament has been moved onto the fast track. But the locomotive, no matter how powerful it might be, cannot develop the proper speed until the rolling stock behind it overcomes its inertia.

Therefore, the disarmament processes need to be globalized and embrace all categories of weapons, as well as all countries and regions.

It is not the first year we have discussed this issue at the United Nations. The current UN mechanism in the disarmament sphere must be brought into line with the times. Having finally shaken off the tendency to say things just for effect and the polemical rhetoric, the United Nations would be able to focus on the main issues and embark on real global disarmament measures, even if they might appear modest at the outset.

[Stepanov] If war is rejected as a political instrument, then logic suggests the following step—agreement on the parameters of reasonable defensive sufficiency of military potentials. What possibility is there of reaching such an agreement?

[Petrovskiy] The path lies through a wide-ranging international dialogue aimed at giving military doctrines and, consequently, the military organizational development of all states an exclusively defensive direction.

This dialogue is already a reality in relations between the countries of the Warsaw Pact and the Atlantic alliance. With the upcoming signing of the Nonaggression Declaration between the countries of the Warsaw Pact and NATO, relations of military confrontation in Europe will finally become past history. But security can only be reliably safeguarded if the demilitarization processes extend beyond the confines of the European continent. It is necessary to make maximum use of the potential for regional approaches to eliminating the threat of war in Asian, African, and Latin American countries. The United Nations could become a kind of center for the globalization of defensive sufficiency, stimulating regional efforts. In our view, the UN special study of defensive doctrines could aid the quest for mutual understanding in this sphere.

[Stepanov] The Soviet Union has on more than one occasion expressed the belief that only the total elimination of nuclear weapons can guarantee lasting security for modern civilization. Has our approach changed?

[Petrovskiy] No. And we will continue to try to further deepen the process of nuclear disarmament and widen the sphere covered by it, bringing in tactical nuclear missiles in Europe and also naval tactical nuclear weapons. The talks we propose on tactical nuclear weapons in Europe would initially involve the USSR and the United States, and other countries could join in later. In our view, the talks should cover ground-based tactical missiles, nuclear artillery, aircraft carrying nuclear weapons, and the nuclear components of these weapons.

No one seriously expects nuclear weapons to be done away with overnight. Only a stage-by-stage approach is possible. Why doesn't the United Nations, guided by a desire for practical action, launch a dialogue on possible stages of nuclear disarmament? At the same time, one might begin a discussion of ways of forming a deterrence system that would in the long term replace the security model based on mutual nuclear deterrence by force. The consolidation of the switch from declarations to practical action would be aided by a specific examination of the question of prohibiting the production of fissionable material for weapons manufacture.

The Soviet Union has already stopped producing highly enriched uranium and has published a program for decommissioning all its weapons-grade plutonium reactors before 2000. We attach considerable importance to the problem of the nuclear materials that are left over as a result of accords on nuclear disarmament. We appreciate the public's concern lest the very fact that the materials still exist leave the door open to their possible utilization for military purposes. It is important to devise a proper control mechanism and carry out a scientific-technical study of the potential for their peaceful use. In our view, it is also time one asked the International Atomic Energy Agency to embark on an expert analysis of all these problems.

Global action definitely takes priority in the matter of preserving and strengthening the nuclear nonproliferation setup. The Soviet Union intends to act resolutely from positions of support for the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which is to remain in effect until a nuclear-free, nonviolent world becomes a reality. It can only be replaced by an all-embracing international treaty on not recreating nuclear weapons once they have been completely eliminated.

We are disinclined to dramatize the fact that the fourth conference to examine the effect of the treaty ended without the adoption of a final document. As far as we are concerned, the main result of the conference was the fact that the treaty participants do not question the need to preserve it.

Global action is also needed today in order to bring to a conclusion the long effort to elaborate a convention on the elimination of another mass destruction weapon—chemical. We are convinced that the United Nations would be able to make a substantial contribution to ensuring the universality of the future convention that is being elaborated in Geneva.

[Stepanov] What else can be done to accelerate the Geneva talks in order to eliminate the chemical and bacteriological threat?

[Petrovskiy] We support the proposal to hold in the first half of 1991 a session of the Disarmament Conference at foreign ministerial level in order to remove the final obstacles to agreeing on a convention on chemical weapons. The efforts to eliminate the chemical threat are only just reaching a conclusion, whereas bacteriological weapons have already been "outlawed" by the 1972 Convention and this arrangement now needs strengthening. It would be facilitated by the holding of a third conference next year to examine the effect of the agreement. The Soviet Union believes that the elaboration of a special control mechanism, the guaranteed participation of all states in it, stronger trust and broader openness, and the elimination of worries concerning activities regulated by the convention could be the main ways to make the convention more effective.

[Stepanov] The war unleashed by Iraq and the threats from Baghdad of the use of the most modern and destructive types of weapons remind one of another serious problem—conventional weapon supplies. This question also requires a global solution, does it not?

[Petrovskiy] Our position on this aspect of disarmament was set out in detail recently in a letter from the USSR foreign minister to the UN general secretary. Confirming its willingness to limit sales and supplies of weapons both quantitatively and qualitatively, the USSR proposes starting to move in this direction by creating a proper data bank within the UN framework. This measure would provide a better picture of the possibility of applying the principle of defensive sufficiency and on this basis embark on the priority reduction of surplus arms production.

[Stepanov] True globalization of disarmament cannot be achieved as long as naval armaments remain outside that framework. Surely, such principles as reasonable sufficiency and strengthening of stability, elimination of the capability to launch a surprise attack and conduct offensive actions, effective monitoring, and mutual openness should also apply to the situation at sea?

[Petrovskiy] Quite right. As for us, we confirmed at the United Nations our proposal to hold under the organization's auspices a multilateral meeting involving military experts from the major naval powers and other interested states. It would be expedient if it were to focus attention on the discussion of naval confidence-building measures. This question should also be focused on when examining naval issues at the UN Disarmament Commission. We support the Scandinavian countries' proposal on devising international standards for the safety of nuclear power installations on board ships.

[Stepanov] The open publication of information on military activities is becoming an increasingly important additional factor of stability and security as a whole. There was a time when our country was criticized—and rightly so!—for being "secrecy-mad." But this is apparently becoming a thing of the past?

[Petrovskiy] Indeed, our country has definitely set its sights on widening glasnost in military matters. Data on the numerical strength and main categories of USSR Armed Forces have been published and disseminated, at the United Nations, among other places. At the current session of the General Assembly information on USSR defense expenditure was presented in accordance with the standardized system of UN returns.

To make military openness a universal norm of international life, we propose that the measures of openness under UN auspices should envisage, in particular:

—the annual, voluntary submission by states of information to the United Nations on the numerical strength of their armed forces (overall and broken down into main categories—ground forces, air force, navy, and others): on the main categories of armaments (tanks, armored combat vehicles, artillery, combat aircraft and helicopters, large surface ships, including amphibious warfare ships, and submarines); on the numerical strength of forces outside the national territory; in the case of nuclear powers, information on ICBM launchers, submarine-launched ballistic missiles, safety measures, and ground-based tactical nuclear missiles;

—the annual, voluntary submission by states of data to the standardized UN system of military expenditure returns;

—the heightened predictability of the UN states' military organizational development by means of ensuring public knowledge of the member states' military budgets.

In conclusion, I would say that what is chiefly required of all states today is realism, political courage, and a willingness to act decisively.

Case for 'Minimum Nuclear Deterrence' Argued

PM1411151190 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 14 Nov 90 Second Edition p 5

[Article by Colonel Vladimir Chernyshev, candidate of technical sciences: "Step Backward? On Tactical Nuclear Weapons in Europe"]

[Text] Doubts about the expediency of talks on tactical nuclear weapons in Europe have again been raised in Washington and the capitals of a number of other NATO countries. It is well-known that for a long time this problem sparked heated disputes in the North Atlantic alliance.

Soon after the signing of the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles, the Soviet Union proposed starting talks on nuclear arms with a range of up to 500 km, but official Washington rejected this initiative "out of hand," as they say.

As far back as April 1989 Pentagon boss Richard Cheney described the proposal for talks on tactical nuclear weapons as "a dangerous trap" and opposed their being held "in the foreseeable future." Moreover, the United States announced plans for the modernization of ground-launched tactical nuclear missiles to "compensate" for the reductions in these missiles under the Treaty on Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles.

However, under pressure from events on the European continent, the NATO countries' position on tactical nuclear weapons also began to change. And finally the NATO summit in London at the beginning of July adopted a decision on starting talks on short-range nuclear forces. The London declaration on the transformation of the North Atlantic Alliance concludes that "as a result of the creation of new political and military conditions in Europe the role of the shortest-range substrategic systems will shrink considerably." On the basis of this conclusion the NATO countries' top leaders proclaimed in their declaration: New talks between the United States and the Soviet Union on the reduction of short-range nuclear forces (that is, tactical nuclear weapons) should begin immediately after the signing of the first treaty on conventional armed forces in Europe.

It might apparently have been said that an extremely difficult barrier had been surmounted. But now voices demanding the postponement of these talks are again being heard in the Western camp.

So what considerations are guiding the NATO capitals here? "Officials on both sides of the Atlantic," the American newspaper THE WASHINGTON POST wrote recently, "say that the need for these arms reduction talks has declined as a result of the development of political events. Only controversial nuclear policy problems which they would prefer not to tackle would arise in connection with such talks."

I believe that such an approach hardly testifies to a suitable interpretation of all the positive changes that have taken place in East-West relations. Let me remind you that the main argument used by NATO for several years in support of building up short-range nuclear arms amounted to the following: The West deploys this arsenal to deter a massive Soviet thrust into West Europe. But surely this thesis is obsolete today?

First, the very near future will see the signing of a treaty on conventional armed forces in Europe under which the two military-political alliances will have an equal quantity of conventional arms of a destabilizing nature. And substantially reduced maximum permissible levels for these weapons have been chosen. Second, the Soviet Union is pulling its troops and arms, including nuclear weapons, out of East Europe. Third, the United States has abandoned a number of provisions of the "flexible response" concept, which envisaged the use of short-range nuclear weapons, and announced its abandonment of plans to modernize its "Lance" tactical missiles and nuclear artillery. Fourth, the public of Germany, on whose territory the main arsenals of American tactical nuclear weapons are sited, are increasingly actively advocating their total withdrawal.

One other factor should evidently be stressed, too. The Soviet leadership has repeatedly stated that as soon as serious talks begin with NATO on tactical nuclear weapons in Europe our country would move to substantially reduce its tactical nuclear missiles on a unilateral basis.

There is no disputing that all the facts listed above give grounds for believing that a solid basis already exists for a serious and constructive discussion of questions concerned with reducing the nuclear confrontation at the tactical level. The Soviet Union is convinced that the phased reduction and then the elimination of tactical nuclear weapons in Europe would promote a reduction in the war danger and the building of confidence. Taking account of the NATO countries' manifest unpreparedness to seek agreement at this time on the complete elimination of tactical nuclear weapons in Europe, the USSR has promised something of a compromise. As one of the intermediate stages along the path of phased nuclear disarmament it might be possible to elaborate specific parameters for minimum nuclear deterrence, also including tactical nuclear weapons. If the need to deter each other still exists as yet, this deterrence must be moved to the minimum level of nuclear arsenals.

'Unprecedented' Warsaw-NATO Declaration

LD1411195090 Moscow TASS in English 1915 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Vienna November 14 TASS—An unprecedented joint declaration of the 22 member-states of the Warsaw Treaty and NATO was agreed upon in Vienna today in the run up to the European summit in Paris.

The document, pledging good-neighbourly relations, partnership and cooperation between signatories, will be signed at the summit on November 19.

[Words indistinct] pledge not to use force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, not to redraw current borders and to refrain from any actions incompatible with the United Nations charter and the Helsinki final act.

Signatories are expected to retain a military potential only enough to avert war and ensure effective defence. The will pledge to help monitor agreements on conventional, nuclear and chemical arms and disarmament.

Moiseyev Comments on Talks With NATO Officials

LD1311182590 Moscow TASS in English 1621 GMT 13 Nov 90

[By TASS correspondent Oleg Moskovskiy]

[Text] Moscow November 13 TASS—"Two days of meetings and conversations with President Mikhail Gorbachev and at the Foreign and Defence Ministries have reaffirmed the topicality of a turnaround towards new political thinking and a new peace concept that guarantees mankind's survival," Soviet Chief of Staff Mikhail Moiseyev told TASS today. Moiseyev spoke to TASS at the end of official talks with Vigleik Eide, chairman of NATO's Military Committee, and General John R. Galvin, the alliance's supreme commander in Europe, who are on an official visit to the USSR.

According to Moiseyev, the current peaceful development in Europe bodes well for forging a fundamentally new system of European security, based "on the gradual transfer of military-political alliances into political ones, with the subsequent advent of non- bloc, collective structures."

The transition to democratic structures of security has begun, Moiseyev said. Today the world community is looking to Paris which is due to host a CSCE summit in a week. "The joint declaration, to be endorsed at the meeting, will proclaim us to be no longer enemies. A conventional forces in Europe treaty will also be signed," he stressed.

Moiseyev believes that that would lead to a new situation, as the main cause of military confrontation will be eliminated, and the guarantee of peace and security in Europe ensured.

"We will live in a totally different new Europe, in a different military-political situation," he added.

Vienna and Paris urge the military leaders of the Warsaw Treaty and NATO to develop and perfect all forms of contacts between alliances in the military field.

"The nascent positive trends give us cause for optimism and confidence in that our efforts will be a success," Moiseyev said.

NATO Generals Depart on USSR Tour

LD1411095290 Moscow TASS in English 0914 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Moscow November 14 TASS—General Vigleik Eide, chairman of the NATO Military Committee, and General John Galvin, NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe, left Moscow today for a tour of the country. They are currently in the Soviet Union on an official visit.

At the airport they were seen off by General of the Army Mikhail Moiseyev, chief of the Soviet Armed Forces' General Staff and first deputy defence minister, and by other officials.

Spokesman on UN Observers in Central America

LD1411122190 Moscow TASS in English 1049 GMT 14 Nov 90

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Konstantin Voitsekhovich]

[Text] Moscow November 14 TASS—U.N. observers, trying to implement regional peace agreements, create favourable conditions for a peaceful settlement in Central America, a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman told TASS today.

The spokesman was commenting on the U.N. Security Council resolution, unanimously passed recently, to extend the mandate to U.N. observers group in Central America by six months.

The Security Council has approved a report by the U.N. secretary-general, containing recommendations on the functioning of the U.N. control mechanism. The group will be reduced in connection with the settlement in Nicaragua.

The group has been instructed to monitor the implementation of obligations taken by Central American governments to stop assistance to irregular forces and rebel movements in the region and prevent the use of their territories for attacks on their neighbours.

"The Soviet Union believes that the U.N. Security Council decision to extend the mandate to the observer group in Central America testifies to the readiness of the international community to help Central American countries in their efforts to establish stable peace in the region," the spokesman said.

Gorbachev Addresses World Trade Union Congress

LD1411235590 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1935 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Moscow, 14 Nov (TASS)—M.S. Gorbachev met today with representatives of the 12th World Congress of Trade Unions which opened in Moscow yesterday. Taking part in the congress, organized at the initiative of the WFTU [World Federation of Trade Unions], are envoys of working people from 130 countries. Trade union leaders of the most varied political orientation were interested in the assessment of the processes of perestroyka in the USSR, the transition of the country's economy to market relations and associated social guarantees for the population, and prospects of implementation of the socialist choice.

Cordially greeting the guests, M.S. Gorbachev stressed the topicality of radical renewal of the content and methods of activity of Soviet trade unions. They can and must perform their own irreplaceable functions for protecting the interests of all groups and strata of the working people. At the same time, as the recent congress showed, Soviet trade unions are vitally interested in partner relations with all constructive political and public forces that are capable of consolidating the country and ensuring reliable prospects for resolving vital problems of improving the life of the people on the new economic foundations.

I am convinced, the Soviet leader stated, that we are not deviating from the road we have chosen, we are not giving up the orientation toward the socialist choice to which the majority of Soviet citizens adhere. We are departing from barrack-room socialism, from the command-bureaucratic system which restricted a person's freedom and restrained his creative capabilities. At the same time we are opposed to groundless nihilistic deletion of all those positive things that have been created by the labor of many generations of Soviet people.

Drawing from what has been achieved, and avoiding grave distortions, we are gradually placing at the focus of attention the rights of the working man, his economic freedom, his opportunities actively to realize his political, social and all other creative capabilities.

In our society pluralism of views and approaches is being affirmed. There are also calls to other ideological and social guidelines. If they do not run counter to the law, then we consider them to be permissible and even a normal phenomenon.

In the next few months the new shape of our economy and indeed of all the Soviet Union will be molded. In all these processes an active part is played by our trade unions.

The general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the Soviet Union thanked the envoys of the trade union movement of all countries for their solidarity with Soviet perestroyka. Naturally, he stressed, we are counting basically on our own forces, our own human, scientific and natural potential. Especially, since it is colossal by all international standards. But at the present, during this most difficult and responsible period of change for such an immense country as ours, toward the best achievement of world civilization, we especially value the support of friends, of all people of good will from all the continents of our planet. Now more than ever we need new dynamism, new stimuli, and the most direct engagement of the personal interests of people in all social undertakings. We must take the fullest account of the historic specific nature of such a unique multinational country as ours, and at the same time draw upon all that is best in world culture and international experience.

M.S. Gorbachev spoke in favor of the active interaction of all political and public forces, including the trade unions in the interests of completely overcoming the inertia of the "cold war," multiplying the mutually useful links between East and West, North and South. This is necessary in order to avoid such dangerous consequences of international confrontation as the all-exhausting arms race, the deficit of trust and international estrangement, poverty, famine, and excessive foreign debt.

M.S. Gorbachev answered numerous specific questions from the participants in the conversation who thanked him for his attention and for the openness and "first-hand" information. The leaders of the international trade union movement expressed support for the course toward political solutions to international conflicts and the strengthening of UN authority, and wished success to the peoples of the Soviet Union in the radical restructuring of all spheres of their life, which is regarded by the political public figures of the most varied countries as a most important guarantee of the irreversibility of the positive changes throughout the contemporary world.

V.P. Shcherbakov, G.I. Yanayev, and V.A. Kuptsov took part in the meeting.

Ryzhkov Attends 13 Nov Session

LD1311212590 Moscow TASS in English 2053 GMT 13 Nov 90

[By TASS correspondents Igor Agabekov and Vladimir Yegorov]

[Text] Moscow November 13 TASS—The 12th World Congress of Trade Unions opened here today focused on the need to renew the trade union movement and bring it in line with realities.

The forum brought together delegates and guests from over a hundred countries. Trade union centres, which are not members of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU), are widely represented at the congress.

The week-long forum is expected to adopt a document on renewing the WFTU and the new rules of the federation.

Delivering a welcoming address to the participants in the congress on behalf of the general confederation of the USSR trade unions, its chairman Vladimir Shcherbakov said that radical political and economic changes in various areas of the world, the world community's growing awareness of human values and the lowering of military confrontation called for trade unions' new approaches to the forms and methods of their work, to developing cooperation and solidarity.

WFTU Secretary-General Ibrahim Zakaria, who delivered a report at the congress, noted the importance of turning the federation into a world centre that would shun excess politisation and ideologisation and bring real benefit to the organisations incorporated into the centre and other friendly organisations by acting on "their social orders".

On behalf of the WFTU, Zakaria expressed solidarity with the trade unions in East European countries, which are going through a serious economic situation, and emphasised the need to give them specific aid in tackling such issues as improving working conditions, combatting inflation and unemployment and social ensurance.

Pedro Ross Leal, general secretary of the Centre of Cuba's Working People, criticised the WFTU's former course. He said that the federation focused its activity on anti-imperialist struggle and allowed the vital interests of the working people to escape its attention. He called to preserve the unity of the federation and to restructure it on genuinely democratic principles.

H. Jamam, general secretary of the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions, spoke about the WFTU's continuous support for efforts by the working people in Arab countries to ensure peace and social progress.

Speakers voiced concern over the explosive situation in the Gulf. Delegates unanimously favoured resolving the crisis by peaceful means.

Soviet Prime Minister Nikolay Ryzhkov was present at the opening of the congress.

Delegates Discuss Future Strategy

LD1411072990 Moscow TASS in English 0617 GMT 14 Nov 90

[By TASS correspondents Igor Agabekov and Vladimir Yegorov]

[Text] Moscow November 14 TASS—Secretary-General of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) Ibrahim Zacharia called for pooling the efforts of trade unions of different orientations in his report to the 12th World Congress of Trade Unions, which opened in Moscow on Tuesday.

The congress has assembled to discuss Trade Union strategy for the nineties.

Pointing out that effective protection of working people's interests was possible only if trade unions pooled their efforts, the WFTU chairman expressed regret over the continuing split in the world trade union movement.

There are no substantial grounds for the rift between the World Federation of Trade Unions, the World Labour Confederation and the International Conference of Independent Trade Unions because the interests of millions of working people they represent do not conflict with each other.

Their interaction and solidarity acquire special importance under present conditions when transnational corporations step up their pressure against trade union rights.

Criticizing the World Confederation's leadership for clinging to old methods and concepts in international trade union relations and forbidding their organisations to maintain relations with the world federation of trade unions, the WFTU secretary-general said this illustrated the adherence to cold war traditions.

It is time for democratic trade unions, he said, to discard old stereotypes and pool their efforts to end all wars as a method of settling disputes between states.

The gradual rapprochement between the World Trade Union organisations that began after the Ninth World Trade Union Congress in 1978 inspires hope that the world's largest trade union associations will eventually find a way towards interaction and cooperation, the WFTU secretary-general said.

Commentator on Soviet UN Staffers Pay Policy

PM1411153590 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Nov 90 Union Edition p 2

[Article by unattributed TASS observer for IZVESTIYA: "Pay Without Deductions"]

[Text] As USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov has reported, Soviet citizens working at the United Nations and in other international organizations will henceforth no longer surrender the lion's share of their pay to the accountants at the Soviet missions.

Until now, Soviet staffers of the UN Secretariat, who pledged in all sincerity to fulfill that organization's Charter including the commitment not to follow the instructions of any national governments, were at the same time perfectly well aware that they had no hope of any independence from their home state. Up to two-thirds of each international employee's salary was meticulously transferred to the account of the USSR Foreign Ministry which, admittedly, assumed the burden of providing that staffer with housing and part payment of his medical bills. As a result of this patently unequal exchange Soviet staffers were left with a mere pittance.

I anticipate indignant exclamations from the supporters of "social justice": This "pittance," they will say, is still

many times higher than the average Soviet workers' earnings. Without going into the details, because that is the theme for a separate discussion, I shall merely note that in the first place one should be guided by local conditions and, second, robbery, even under cover of the struggle for "social justice," is still robbery.

This absurd situation, which one Soviet newspaper has called "state racketeering," is based on the functionary's sacred conviction that any Soviet person, whatever his post and wherever he is employed, belongs to the Soviet state.

Of course, international deception on this scale, even though denied at all levels, cannot but be an open secret among UN circles. In recent years the ambiguity of Soviet staffers' position has begun to arouse not only the sarcastic laughter of Western colleagues but also, and even worse, the kind of pity reserved for a sick child. But the patent insincerity on this question negated all the Soviet side's efforts to create a new image for the USSR at the United Nations.

The situation began to conflict increasingly not only with common sense but also with the USSR's new foreign policy. And thus the determination with which the USSR Foreign Ministry has restored justice deserves universal approval.

Moscow To Host International Dimension Forum

LD1411085290 Moscow TASS in English 0727 GMT 14 Nov 90

[By TASS correspondent Mikhail Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow November 14 TASS—Parliamentarians, diplomats, human rights activists, philosophers, political scientists, lawyers and religious and public figures from 25 countries will attend the international round table devoted to global morals and the human dimension of the all-European process.

The meeting is scheduled between November 15-17 in Moscow. It is being held on the initiative of the Soviet Friendship Society.

"We are witnessing with growing anxiety that many state and public initiatives aimed to resolve today's main problems are reaching a deadlock," society spokesman Oleg Yermakov told TASS.

"I believe this can be explained by the fact that people living in various countries cannot agree or simply understand each other, as their concepts of good and bad differ. What some people describe as the protection of human rights, others call interference in domestic affairs. A single action can be labeled as an occupation or fraternal aid, free trade or economic expansion," he said.

"Costly ecological programmes proposed by developed countries are rejected by developing countries, which do not want to starve to death today in order to let humanity live tomorrow," Yermakov said.

Irish parliament member Michael Higgins, Italian sovietologist Vittorio Strada, "Anti-War Beyond War" Organisation President Richard Rathban, writers Vladimir Voynovich and Vladimir Maksimov and Vatican Nuncio Francesco Colasuonno are planning to attend the meeting.

Charity concerts will be held during the meeting. The money collected will be sent to the Chernobyl Children Fund.

Discussions will continue during "parallel public undertakings", due to be held in Autumn 1991 in connection with the Moscow human rights conference within the CSCE framework.

United States & Canada

PRAVDA Reports Gorbachev-Baker 8 Nov Talks

PM09811090890 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Nov 90 Second Edition p 1

[TASS report: "Meeting Between M.S. Gorbachev and J. Baker"]

[Text] On 8 November, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev received U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. The talks, which lasted about two hours, took place in an atmosphere reflecting the new level of relations between the USSR and the United States, which makes it possible to discuss any question in a confidential and detailed manner. Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev told the guest about the particular features of the period which the country is going through, a period which is complex and contradictory, but which also presents great opportunities. During the celebration of the October Revolution anniversary, he said, we saw for ourselves that the overwhelming majority of people believe in commonsense and consolidation. This majority made itself felt virtually everywhere and expressed itself powerfully in favor of perestroyka.

Democracy, the USSR president said, does not rule out discipline, order, and stability. Indeed, it presupposes them. We shall proceed on this basis as we undertake decisive steps in the next few months toward a market economy and toward a new Union treaty. In so doing we are mindful of our responsibility both to our people and to the whole world, and we believe that everyone should have an interest in the success of our reforms.

Secretary of State Baker underlined this idea. The reforms being carried out in the USSR, Secretary of State Baker said, demand great courage, and we sincerely wish the Soviet leadership success. The two men held detailed talks with regard to the situation developing in the Persian Gulf region. The theme of Soviet-U.S. dialogue has from the very start of the crisis been the need for unity among all countries, particularly those which belong to the UN Security Council, a categorical refusal to accept aggression, and the general demand that Iraqi troops unconditionally withdraw from Kuwait. Nobody, the USSR president stressed, should count on cracks appearing in this agreed position. He highly praised the readiness of the U.S. leadership to consult over the situation and its possible development.

On behalf of U.S. President George Bush, James Baker set out a number of ideas which the Soviet side will closely study.

Certain other questions of mutual interest were also discussed.

Commentary Views Baker-Shevardnadze Gulf Talks

LD1011103390 Moscow International Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Commentary by Aleksey Zlatorunskiy: The Gulf and the Soviet-U.S. Talks in Moscow]

[Text] Talks took place in Moscow between Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who was also received by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. Shevardnadze said in the news conference that followed the Soviet-U.S. talks that the situation in the Gulf occupied a prominent place in the talks, adding that the Soviet Union and the United States prefer peaceful political means to resolve the dispute. However, he does not totally exclude the possibility of using force, and pointed out that decision on this should be taken within the framework of the UN Security Council.

James Baker said at the news conference that it is necessary for Iraq to implement UN Security Council resolutions, and rejected the possibility of partial settlements.

At first it might seem that the results of the new Soviet-U.S. consultations have not brought about drastic changes in the assessment of the current situation in the Gulf. The Soviet side has confirmed that it is a firm supporter of a political settlement of the Gulf crisis, like that of any crisis in any other region of the world. This attitude had been confirmed repeatedly at the many talks and meetings of the Soviet President and other Soviet officials with other heads of state and prime ministers, including those of Arab countries. This was the aim of the recent mission by Yevgeniy Primakov, personal envoy of the president and member of the USSR Presidency Council.

In principle, the Soviet efforts in the search for a political settlement of the Gulf crisis find a good response in the great majority of countries, including the United States. But in recent days, events have taken place which allow the assessment of the Soviet-U.S. consultations in Moscow other than as a conformation of known views. What are these events? The first thing I would like to draw attention to is the statement by U.S. President George Bush at his White House news conference. He said that he wishes very much to see a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis, but he declared his intention to send a new U.S. force to the Gulf consisting of three aircraft carriers with escort ships, three tank divisions, and other military units totalling 100,000 soldiers. This will greatly consolidate the U.S. expeditionary force in Saudi Arabia, which at present numbers 230,000 soldiers and officers, according to George Bush. Also other members of the multinational forces, including Syria, have declared their intention to expand their military presence in the Gulf. It is a big mistake not to pay attention to this, at least because with the exerted efforts

in the search for a political settlement of the Gulf crisis, the line to strengthen the armed confrontation is also developing effectively.

Today, all the indications are that unless Iraq's attitude to well-known UN Security Council resolutions changes, and it maintains its occupation of Kuwait, this confrontation will culminate in an explosion whose consequences would be difficult to predict. Therefore, it is necessary now to activate political efforts, coordinate them and hold continuing consultations, especially among the UN Security Council permanent members and the Arab countries, and between the USSR and the United States. Naturally, it is possible for all these efforts to give positive result if Baghdad looks at them with sufficient seriousness and responsibility.

U.S.-Philippines Bases Agreement Viewed

HK1411044190 Moscow in Tagalog to the Philippines 1300 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Here are details on the talks between Manila and Washington on the future of the military bases in the Philippines. Reports say both sides had agreed to allow the present treaty signed in 1947 to run its course and to draw up a new agreement for the retention of the bases.

But before both sides reached agreement, the U.S. Defense Department announced it would pull out its fighter planes from Clark Air Base. This was announced by a Pentagon spokesman, after Manila requested full control over the bases.

It is difficult, at present, to envision a total withdrawal by the Pentagon of its forces from Southeast Asia. As stated by Assistant Secretary Richard Solomon, it is difficult to maintain a security system in the region similar to the one in Europe. Solomon claims it would be necessary to update such mechanisms as bilateral defense agreements, foreign military bases, and forward-based forces. He also mentioned the lack of interest among leaders in the region to giving their full support to the concept of nonaggression.

Some analysts say the regional arms race may increase because of plans by some countries in the region to beef up their defenses against neighboring nations who may harbor aggressive tendencies in order to avoid situations like the one brought about by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Only a few decades have passed since Washington declared it was necessary to retain its bases in the Philippines to counter the Soviet threat. However, they are now saying the bases are needed to protect Asians against the ASEAN nations [as heard].

It is known that intimidation is ineffective in times of crisis; therefore, in order to avoid intimidation, steps should be taken to remove the causes of conflict.

It is hard to calculate the extent of military power in Southeast Asia, since many changes have taken place in the field of international relations. This is why the announced withdrawal of American forces from the Philippines is one of the best examples of disarmament.

TASS Notes U.S. Plans To Build Air Base in Italy

LD1411154290 Moscow TASS in English 0910 GMT 14 Nov 90

[By TASS correspondent Nikolay Orekhov]

[Text] Washington November 14 TASS—The Pentagon is planning to raise the issue of building a new U.S. air base in Italy before the U.S. Congress, despite the fact that the House and the Senate have refused to allot money for its construction in the 1991 fiscal year.

The base in Crotone is necessary to deploy F-16 aircraft and protect NATO's southern flank, a U.S. Defence Ministry spokesman said on Monday.

If an international crisis occurs, the United States will need airfields, as the operation to move U.S. forces to Saudi Arabia has confirmed, a U.S. Air Force European Command spokesman said. According to the new military agreement with Spain, the Pentagon will have to pull out 72 F-16 fighters from the Torrejon Base by May 1992. The U.S. Air Force wants to move them to a new base in Crotone, Italy.

Many members of congress believe that the F-16 can be distributed among existing U.S. bases in Europe. During debates, they criticised the Pentagon for its plan to spend $300 million to build a new base, while the improvement of the international situation and budget difficulties demand that a number of U.S. military bases abroad be closed.

Commenting on the Pentagon's decision to continue attempts to receive money to build a base in Crotone. Chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations' Military Building Subcommittee Jim Sasser said the U.S. Air Force is planning to build an extremely expensive base in Italy. He said it is inadmissible to spend money at the height of the struggle against budget deficit.

The Italian Government unenthusiastically consented to allowing military operations on its territory, the Senator said. The Soviet Union is demobbing and withdrawing its troops from Eastern Europe. This is hardly the appropriate time to build a new base, he said.

China

USSR, PRC To Set Up Hi-Tech Joint Venture

OW1411144790 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 2200 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Interview with (Wei Yonghe), a manager at the China Corporation for Science, Technology, and High-Technology, by station reporter (Machenko); (Machenko)'s questions read by announcer]

[Text] [Announcer] Dear listeners: One of the frequently discussed topics in our broadcast has been Soviet-Chinese cooperation. Today we would like to bring you a late development: (Kurchatov) Atomic Energy Research Institute in Moscow and the China Corporation for Science, Technology, and High-Technology have signed an agreement on setting up a joint venture in Beijing. In this connection, our station reporter (Machenko) has filed the following report:

[(Machenko)] The China Corporation for Science, Technology, and High-Technology was founded several years ago to apply the latest scientific and technological research fruits in production. According to manager (Wei Yonghe), the scope of the corporation's activities, in fact, embraces all fields of the modern science, including biotechnology, information science, research of (?unorthodox) energy sources, astronautics, and laser technology. The corporation has established close ties with many Soviet scientists. He added: Since the Soviet Union implemented the open policy, possibilities have arisen between the two sides for studying subjects which were once classified. Take, for example, X-ray research.

[Begin (Wei Yonghe) recording] We have cooperated with Professor (Kumakhov) of the Atomic Institute under the Soviet Academy of Sciences in X-ray promotion and application. Three units from the Chinese side take part in the cooperation. They are, namely, our company, which is affiliated with the State Science and Technology Commission; the China Precision Instruments Export and Import Corporation, which is affiliated with the Aeronautics and Astronautics Ministry; and Beijing Normal University. X-ray promotion can be used in a wide range of fields, such as microelectronics, optical equipment, medical diagnosis and treatment, and material analysis. [end recording]

[(Machenko)] The corporation under the management of (Wei Yonghe) is one of the most successful corporations in China, which has many partners abroad. However, he is especially interested in cooperation with the Soviet Union. Why? This is his explanation:

[Begin (Wei) recording] The Soviet Union is rather advanced in research, while China has great potential for developing research fruits in commodities. This combination of the Soviet and Chinese advantages can promptly turn research fruits into commodities for sale in the international market. Both sides will be benefited in further exchange of experience in the reform of science and technology management system and other issues of mutual interest. [end recording]

'New Stage' Follows Economic Symposium With PRC

LD1411165190 Moscow TASS in English 1127 GMT 14 Nov 90

[By TASS correspondent Alla Prozorova]

[Text] Vladivostok November 14 TASS—A new meeting between Soviet and Chinese scientists on problems of economic cooperation in the development of the Pacific Ocean, held in Vladivostok, will herald a new stage in the two countries' interaction in this sphere, participants believe.

In spring, they exchanged ideas on studying sea resources and the environment. Now, participants have switched to discussing conceptual provisions for versatile business partnership.

The symposium was organised by the Institute of Ocean Development Economic and International Problems (IEMPOO) at the Soviet Academy of Sciences far eastern department. It is attended by representatives from scientific centres in Beijing, Qingdao and Shenyang.

The Chinese delegation is led by deputy director of the Ocean Economy Institute in Qingdao Professor Jian Tiemin. He said such meetings were very important and help assess the prospects for economic integration, in which the Soviet Union and China are interested.

IEMPOO director Rafik Aliyev said the situation in trade and economic cooperation was not easy. On the face of it, the dynamics of trade cause no reasons for concern, as its volume is constantly growing.

According to the Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations, regional and border trade amounted to 16 million Swiss francs in 1983. In 1989, it reached 1.3 billion, and is expected to total five billion Swiss francs by the end of 1990. The maritime territory consumer unin has increased goods turnover by 600 percent over the past two years. Sixteen join ventures have been set up.

In spite of the rapid growth of mutual trade and intense cooperation, their share in trade and economic activities of China and the Soviet Union is still rather small.

Aliyev recalled that only ten percent of contracts signed last year and worth 300 million Swiss francs, have been realised. Lots of contracts were signed without the necessary preparation both on the Soviet and Chinese sides, he said.

Aliyev believes another factor, hampering progress in the development of trade, is barter trade. The development of free enterprise zones in the Soviet Far East will help switch to payments in hard currency, he said.

The four-day symposium is scheduled to end on Thursday.

Northeast Asia

Lukyanov Continues Visit to Japan 14 Nov

Meets Japanese Foreign Minister

LD1411094390 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0629 GMT 14 Nov 90

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Tokyo, 14 Nov [TASS]—The forthcoming visit by President Mikhail Gorbachev to Japan must become a pivotal event in relations between the two countries. Anatoliy Lukyanov, USSR Supreme Soviet chairman, and Taro Nakayama, Japanese foreign minister, have expressed a united opinion on this during a meeting that was held here today. The head of the Soviet legislature is in Tokyo to take part in the celebrations on the occasion of the enthronement of Japanese Emperor Akihito.

The Japanese minister expressed hope that during the course of the top Soviet leader's visit planned for next April progress would be achieved in the matter of concluding a peace treaty between the two countries. Anatoiy Lukyanov remarked that mutual efforts to develop bilateral relations—in the areas of the economy, culture, environmental protection, and contacts between people—would facilitate creating an atmosphere in which it will be easier to resolve the problems existing in relations betwen the USSR and Japan.

Meets With Prime Minister Kaifu

LD1411181590 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1610 GMT 14 Nov 90

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Tokyo, 14 Nov (TASS)—A.I. Lukyanov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet, met today with Japanese Prime Minister T. Kaifu.

On behalf of the Japanese Government, the prime minister expressed gratitude for the eminent Soviet representative's participation in the celebrations to mark the enthronement of Emperor Akihito.

The head of the Japanese Government gave a high appraisal of the policy of President M.S. Gorbachev, noting that the conferment on him of the Nobel Peace Prize was a recognition of the Soviet leader's services in ending East-West confrontation and in implementing perestroyka in the Soviet Union. Both sides expressed the opinion that M.S. Gorbachev's forthcoming visit to Japan will give a major boost to the development of relations between the two countries and to their entering a qualitatively new level. The intention to promote in every way the success of the visit was expressed.

During the course of an in-depth conversation on questions of bilateral relations, A.I. Lukyanov stressed that the Soviet Union is building its policy toward Japan in proceeding from the fact that it is a major world power, without which it is not possible to imagine the development of the contemporary process either at the regional or global level. He came out in favor of a broad approach to the development of bilateral relations, proceeding from the fact that their imporvement would meet not only the interests of both countries but also the cause of consolidating peace in the Asian-Pacific region and in the world as a whole.

T. Kaifu announced the Japanese Government's wish for stable, genuinely friendly relations with the USSR. In this connection he indicated the intention to develop relations with the Soviet Union on the basis of the concept of widening balance and spoke in favor of the earliest conclusion between the two countries of a peace treaty by means of solving territorial problems.

During the exchange of opinions on international problems, especially in their Asian-Pacific dimension, the sides agreed that in the Asian-Pacific region very important processes are being implemented, that Japan and the USSR could and should cooperate in the interests of ensuring peace and security in the region.

A broad range of questions of Soviet-Japanese relations, especially tasks connected with the preparations for M.S. Gorbachev's visit, was discussed at the meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister T. Nakayama. The sides were united in the opinion that the visit should be a turning-point in relations between the two countries.

The Japanese minister expressed the hope that during the visit by the head of the Supreme Soviet progress would be achieved in the question of the conclusion of a peace treaty. On the Soviet side it was pointed out that mutual efforts for the development of bilateral relations in a broad spectrum—in the field of economics, culture, conservation of the environment, human contacts—would help the creation of an atmosphere in which it would be easier to tackle the solution of problems existing in relations between the USSR and Japan.

The development of relations between the supreme legislative bodies of the USSR and Japan would help the further improvement of the atmosphere in bilateral relations and deepening of mutual understanding between the peoples of the two countries. This idea was expressed in the course of today's meeting in Tokyo with Y. Sakurauchi, president of the House of Representatives of the Japanese parliament. The sides noted the desirability of broad exchanges not only of delegations representing the chambers of the parliaments of the two countries, but also at the level of parliamentary committees and commissions.

A.I. Lukyanov drew the attention of the Japanese side to the recent USSR Supreme Soviet appeal to the world's parliaments and public on the issue of banning nuclear arms tests. The chairman of the Lower House of the Japanese parliament stressed that Japan fully supports this appeal, welcomes the USSR Supreme Soviet's initiative, and supports the halting of all nuclear tests.

Today the head of the Soviet parliament also met with Y. Nakasone, former prime minister of Japan and a prominent politician, and K. Mitsudzuka and M. Shiokawa, members of parliament for the Liberal Democratic Party, who recently visited the USSR as part of a Japanese parliamentary delegation. The main attention was paid to prospects of developing bilateral relations and some other international problems.

The chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet had a thorough conversation ,with Cypriot President Y.

Vasiliou during which they discussed prospects for developing the situation in Europe and Soviet-Cypriot relations. The conversation passed in a friendly atmosphere characteristic of relations between the two countries. A friendly conversation was held with Albanian Foreign Minister Malile. There was a discussion of issues concerning the normalization of relations between the USSR and Albania. The sides exchanged views on the development of the situation on the European continent.

The meetings were attended by I.A. Rogachev, deputy minister of foreign affairs, and L.A. Chizhov, USSR ambassador in Japan.

Meets Parliamentary Leader

LD1411100190 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0707 GMT 14 Nov 90

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Tokyo, 14 Nov (TASS)—The development of relations between the highest legislative bodies of the USSR and Japan would facilitate the further improvement of the atmosphere in bilateral relations, which is particularly important on the threshold of the visit next spring to Japan by USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev. This was said during the course of today's meeting between Anatoliy Lukyanov, USSR Supreme Soviet chairman, and Yoshio Sakurauchi, chairman of the house of representatives of the Japanese Parliament. The parties noted the desirability of extensive exchanges, not only of delegations representing the houses of parliament of both countries, but also at the level of parliamentary committees and commissions.

Anatoliy Lukyanov drew the attention of the Japanese side to the recent USSR Supreme Soviet appeal to the world's parliaments and societies on the issue of banning nuclear weapons tests. The chairman of the lower house of the Japanese Parliament stressed that Japan fully supports this appeal, welcomes this USSR Supreme Soviet initiative, and is in favor of stopping all nuclear tests.

On behalf of the Japanese people and parliament Yoshio Sakurauchi thanked Anatoliy Lukyanov for his participation in the ceremonies on the occasion of the enthronement of Japanese Emperor Akihito.

The head of the Soviet Parliament noted that this was a tribute of respect to the traditions and constitution of the Japanese people.

Departs 15 Nov

LD1511040990 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0321 GMT 15 Nov 90

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Tokyo, 15 Nov (TASS)—Anatoliy Lukyanov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet, who has been in Tokyo as USSR representative at the enthronement ceremonies of Japanese Emperor Akihito, left today for home. At the Haneda [as received] airport he was seen off by Yozo Ishikawa, director general of the National Defense Agency. Among those seeing him off was Soviet Ambassador to Japan Lyudvig Chizhov.

Japanese Envoy Hosts Reception in Emperor's Honor

OW1511074890 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Japanese Ambassador to the USSR Edamura hosted a reception on 12 November to mark the Japanese holiday celebrating Emperor Akihito's enthronment. Invited to the reception were high-ranking Soviet officials, including Laptev, chairman of the Soviet of the Union of the Supreme Soviet, as well as Shatalin and Yakovlev, members of the Soviet Presidential Council.

Commentary Views Japan's UN Cooperation Bill

OW1511074990 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1000 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Commentary by Dmitriyev]

[Text] Concerning the conclusion of the 119th extraordinary session of the Japanese Diet, Radio Moscow commentator Dmitriyev comments:

It is probably no exaggeration to say that as far as the Japanese Government is concerned, the recent Diet session was one of the most difficult. Moreover, I think that such difficulties have not become things of the past just because the Diet session has come to a conclusion. It is because the Diet deliberations on the UN Peace Cooperation Bill [UNPCB] have already caused a decline in the Kaifu cabinet's popularity. Furthermore, it is because inability to overcome the opposition's united front will probably lead to revitalized activities of rivals within the ruling party though such activities have lately diminished somewhat because of the recent unprecedented high popularity rate of Prime Minister Kaifu.

Additionally, there still remains the problem of what influence failure to have this bill adopted may impose on Japan's relations with the United States, which has already expressed dissatisfaction with this matter. However, if it is asked whether or not there are any grounds for the United States to express its dissatisfaction to the Japanese Government, it certainly is questionable. The government's draft bill which included the possible overseas dispatch of Self-Defense Forces [SDF] personnel has actually aroused resolute rejection by not only all opposition parties, but also a large majority of the Japanese people.

In this connection, it was no surprise at all that the government had decided on giving up its plan to submit the bill to a vote on the previous day of the conclusion of the Diet session. What was rather unusual is that despite the fact that it was quite clear what the results would have been, the government had persistently insisted on having the bill discussed throughout the whole session. Incidentally, there is one positive factor in conducting

deliberations on this bill. This time, the Japanese people have indicated to the whole world that they truly suppot the peace-oriented constitution.

Based on such facts, it stands to reason to think that it will be undesirable for the international community or individual nations to ask Japan to join in the international program which is related to the use of armed force, even for legitimate purposes. Since the use of armed force in handling international relations is rejected, even for the time being, it is proper to respect the Japanese constitution.

It also stands to reason to ask the following question: that is, if the bill should be adopted, and Japanese soldiers should join the multinational forces, will they be actually assigned to major roles in armed confrontations with invaders? To be honest, I think they will be assigned to merely symbolic tasks. In this connection, I think it is wrong to regard enormous amounts of the Japanese financial aid as a price paid for avoiding manpower cooperation in settling the Mideast crisis.

In such a case, what should be brought up first is efficiency of contributions. From a practical viewpoint, the Japanese aid is precisely what can bring about the utmost effect in the economic field. Concerning other aid programs to replace the overseas dispatch, the Japanese Government is reportedly engaged in working out a new draft bill on providing cooperation to the UN peace keeping operation without the SDF participation to substitute the bill that has been abolished.

It will not become clear what results such efforts will achieve until the next regular Diet session scheduled to open in one month.

Mongolian President Comments on Relations

PM1411152190 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 14 Nov 90 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "History Recalls"]

[Text] Let us live with our two great neighbors (the USSR and the PRC—correspondent's note) in peace and friendship, relying on their aid and advice, was the idea voiced by Mongolian President P. Ochirbat in an interview published 13 November in the newspaper ARDIYN ERKH.

Now that the pluralism of opinions is developing in our country, he said, people have begun to speak freely, to express their opinion, especially on topics which used to be considered secret. There is nothing bad in that. Under the conditions of democracy and glasnost it cannot be otherwise. Naturally, this process has also affected the subject of Mongolian-Soviet relations.

I believe that the criterion of truth should be in everything.

In the course of 70 years of joint struggle to build a new society, the Mongolian and Soviet peoples have shared their troubles and joys and trusted each other. If there is something eternal and unshakeable in the world, then we must always remember the blood and sweat shed by the Soviet soldiers for the Mongolian people's freedom and independence. We Mongolians to the extent of our potential have helped our Soviet friends. History will not forget that, the Mongolian president stressed.

With a consideration for the traditional ties in the economy and other spheres, the importance of Mongolian-Soviet relations will continue to grow.

Mongolia Marks October Revolution Anniversary

LD0611141690 Moscow TASS in English 1402 GMT 6 Nov 90

[By TASS correspondent Dugar Sanzhiev and Aleksandr Chernov]

[Text] Ulaanbaatar November 6 TASS—According to the labour code operating in Mongolia, November 7 and 8 remain red-letter days in the country this year, the government-run newspaper ARDIYN ERKH reports today.

Logiyn Tsogt, chairman of the Small Hural Permanent Legal Committee, said that parliament's special session discussed the question on repealing the 61st item of the labour code, in which these days were marked as holidays.

However, deputies to the Small Hural did not reach a consensus. Their voices were almost equally divided 19-18. Some deputies abstained and ten lawmakers were absent.

Thus, the Mongolian people will mark the anniversary of the October revolution.

Mongolian Party Chairman Views Marxism, Leninism

LD0911140790 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0729 GMT 9 Nov 90

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Chernov]

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 3 Nov (TASS)—The MPRP [Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party] is not experiencing a crisis; the party has started a consistent self-renewal. However, a few of its members have indeed found themselves in a "state of crisis." They are those, who, not having understood that in the present situation the party cannot remain as it was before, believe that the MPRP is now lying idle and is not restructuring. The party of Mongolian communists has admitted and subjected to criticism the serious mistakes both in its own history and in the history of the state. Now we are seeking to create a democratic mechanism that will forever protect the party against a repetition of such errors. This is stated in an interview granted by G. Ochirbat, chairman of the MPRP Central Committee, to the army newspaper "ULAN OD" ("RED STAR").

In reply to a question regarding attitudes toward the doctrine of Marxism-Leninism, the leader of the Mongolian communists answered that the MPRP was created not as a Marxist-Leninist party, but as a party of 'arats' (herdsmen), expressing the people's interests. I believe, he said, that Marxism-Leninism is an integral part of the achievements of human thought. However, the application of this theory in its dogmatic understanding has led to distortions in society and in the party. We believe that today Marxism-Leninism is not obsolete, it remains a humane and democratic doctrine, the chairman of the MPRP Central Committee notes.

Mongolian External Relations Minister Appointed

LD1311100690 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0310 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Summary] Ulaanbaatar, 13 Nov (TASS)—Tserenpiliyn Gombosuren has been appointed minister of external relations of the Mongolian People's Republic [MPR]. This decision was made by the People's Great Hural on Monday, thus completing the formation of the country's new cabinet. He received only 59.2 percent of votes cast, but it was sufficient for his joining the new cabinet.

Southeast Asia & Pacific

Advantages of Trade with Vietnam Assessed

PM1311140590 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Nov 90 Second Edition p 5

[Report by PRAVDA correspondent M. Domogatskikh: "View of Vietnam Market"]

[Excerpt] Hanoi, November—[passage omitted] This year the correlation between Soviet and Vietnamese shipments was 1.5:1 and in 1991 it will be 1.2:1. There is a rapid advance toward complete balance in trade relations and that means that the path to building up reciprocal deliveries is opening up.

We cannot bypass the important fact that is the content of exports. One third of our shipments consists of machinery and technical equipment with which, to be honest, it is not that easy for us to penetrate the world market with its tough competition. At the same time, our turbines and generators, transport facilities, and other equipment have firmly won a market in Vietnam and enjoy success and popularity and we must now think about strengthening this situation in a rapidly developing country without, of course, forgetting about improving our output and increasing its reliability, energy-saving qualities, metal content [metalloyemkost, as published], and other specifications meeting modern requirements.

The content of Vietnamese exports to our country is also changing. In addition to food and tropical arable farming products, goods like natural rubber, jute, and mining industry output will have increasing importance among them. Now, with the successful development of the oil and gas industry on the South Vietnam shelf we have also begun to receive Vietnamese oil. Vietnam is also prepared to supply us with articles of its electronic industry.

Vietnam has one more enormous advantage as a trade partner for our country. All year round it is possible to get fresh vegetables and fruit from here, which is very important for the Far East and Siberia. The climate here, Vietnamese specialists say, makes it possible to produce meat, for instance, considerably more rapidly and cheaply and on larger scales. After all, here you do not need to construct expensive stockraising units to protect livestock from the cold, feed expenditure is lower, and with its well organized joint production it is possible to count on obtaining the most varied meat produce. Finally, the organization of joint ventures to process meat would make it possible to obtain canned meat, salami and sausages, and smoked products in great quantity and at any time.

People may say: "But why should we buy food in Vietnam for hard currency if we can buy it in other countries?" But this can only be said by someone who forgets the old Russian saying: "A heifer costs less overseas, but shipment is expensive," by someone who cannot see the enormous mutual advantage from expanding our trade exchange. It is not for nothing that the biggest banks and industrial companies of France, Germany, Austria, Japan, Italy, Canada, and other countries which are engaged in seeking countershipments, having various economic subdivisions and trading houses in their structures, and are elaborating a policy of trade relations with regard to that region's conditions, have now rushed to Vietnam.

They are working vigorously and actively and have created over 100 joint ventures, investing over $1 billion in them, and see in Vietnam an advantageous partner today and an even more advantageous one tomorrow. They look to the long term and study the terms on which they will enter the Vietnamese market in the next few years.

We still have quiet and lack of initiative. Foreign trade and economic organizations seem to be unable to awake from their lethargic sleep. But we must boost the enterprise of vigorous people to undertake business cooperation with Vietnam, where we are ensured the most favorable conditions, create joint ventures, study the market situation, and plan with a view to the distant future so as to avoid discovering in a few years' time that in the Vietnamese market too our place has been taken by other more competent and farsighted businessmen.

Today an extremely alarming situation can be observed because our foreign economic organs are in no hurry to elaborate the mechanism for the transfer to accounting in hard currency with Vietnam. Yet this is a completely different mechanism from the one with Western countries. There are no coordinated documents on shipments

of machinery and technical equipment, fuels and lubricants, and other industrial output for 1991. Without that the establishments which are being constructed in Vietnam with our aid may become a sorry never-ending construction project.

I want to appeal to my friends the deputies of the Union and Russian Supreme Soviets: Take a keen look at the problem, make strictly answerable whoever should be made answerable for lack of initiative, and demand vigorous actions. Perhaps the Union departments have grown accustomed to working under the old regime, so let the Russian parliament display initiative. After all, under the new conditions Russia becomes a direct partner of Vietnam as, incidentally, do the country's other republics. There are good conditions for Vietnam to become our assistant in perestroyka and economic progress. Many of our republics—the Ukraine, Belorussia, Uzbekistan, and others—have their own interests in Vietnam but I think that Russia has a special place here. Even now hundreds of factories and regions of the RSFSR are cooperating in the joint production of shoes and clothing, but that is only a drop in the ocean of mutual exchange which could have a beneficial effect on the market of Russian cities and settlements.

I have cited only a small proportion of the arguments in favor of the broadest, varied economic cooperation between our countries. Members of our parliaments and businessmen who, on arriving in Vietnam, will be convinced that this is now a different, rapidly developing, country despite the shortcomings, difficulties, and mistakes, can make up a full picture. It is not a burden but an advantageous partner in perestroyka and the creation of a new economic order in our native state.

Vietnam Bans Certain Soviet Periodicals

PM1411143190 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 14 nov 90 p 3

[Report by A. Kabannikov under the general heading: "In a Few Lines"]

[Text] Several Soviet periodicals—SPUTNIK, MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI, NOVOYE VREMYA, and NEDELYA—have been virtually banned in Vietnam. They were included in the catalog for subscriptions for next year. But the Vietnamese who wanted to read them invariably met with refusals. The relevant instruction came from the country's Ministry of Culture. The authorities' logic was that the line pursued by these publications differs sharply from the official ideological doctrine.

Near East & South Asia

Belongov, Petrovskiy Continue Mideast Tour

Peaceful Solution Sought

LD1411175790 Moscow TASS in English 1715 GMT 14 Nov 90

[By TASS correspondent Igor Vinogradskiy]

[Text] Moscow November 14 TASS—"The Middle East mission by Aleksandr Belonogov and Vladimir Petrovskiy that began on Tuesday follows upon the efforts of Soviet diplomats to promote the peaceful settlement of the Kuwaiti crisis. We highly appreciate this activity," Kuwaiti Ambassador to the USSR Abd al-Mohsen al-Du'ayj told TASS.

He described the trip as "the last attempt to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis, although a voluntary Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait seems highly unlikely."

"The Iraqi leadership is deliberately dragging out the stay of occupation troops in Kuwait in order to provoke armed clashes and to justify Iraq's isolation and the senseless war with Iran, the results of which have been annulled," the diplomat stresses.

Describing the recent initiative by King Hassan of Morocco to convene an urgent Arab summit, the ambassador said that he welcomed any Arab meeting if it was aimed at fulfilling the well-known U.N. resolution on an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwaiti-occupied territories.

The Kuwaiti ambassador welcomed the recent developments in Lebanon, where it was agreed to destroy the "green line" and disarm groups of various organisations.

"[Words indistinct] we hope that Lebanon would soon become the thriving place it was before 1975."

Asked about the Palestinian issue in light of rising tensions in the Middle East, the Kuwaiti diplomat said that "Palestinians' self-determination and the creation of a Palestinian state should not be directly linked with the settlement of the Gulf crisis."

At the same time, the earliest return to the situation in Kuwait before August 2, 1990, may intensify efforts of all interested sides in the just settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Meet With Moroccan King

LD1511093590 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0750 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Rabat, 15 Nov (TASS)—King Hassan II of Morocco yesterday received here USSR Deputy Foreign Minister V.F. Petrovskiy, representative of the Soviet leadership and of the USSR president, who is visiting a number of North African Arab states.

In the context of discussions on the grave crisis situation in the Persian Gulf it was emphasized by the Soviet side that the development of events in the region is approaching an extremely dangerous point. Only the immediate and unconditional withdrawal by Iraq of its troops from Kuwait and the restoration of the status quo that existed until 2 August can avert a military solution. A political settlement of the crisis is in keeping with the interests of the entire world community and of the countries of the region, above all.

King Hassan II, having noted the closeness of both countries' views of the situation, described Morocco's political and diplomatic efforts directed at averting a military explosion. It was stressed that Morocco's idea of holding an extraordinary Arab summit is assuming exceptionally important significance in the circumstances that are taking shape.

V.F. Petrovskiy stated that the Soviet Union supports the idea of such a conference as being directed at activating the Arab factor. Here, of course, we proceed from the fact that the point should be to implement unconditionally the well-known UN Security Council resolutions. Who, if not the Arabs, are to jolt the Iraqi leadership into awareness of the full measure of its responsibility for the fate of its own people and of the whole region? The sooner Iraq complies with the Security Council decisions, the more chances there will be to resolve all of the problems which pose a burden as far as the Near East situation is concerned.

It was again confirmed by the Soviet side that as far as we are concerned the question of ensuring the security of the Soviet people who remain in Iraq remains a priority issue. The USSR also decisively condemns Iraq's use of the citizens of other countries as hostages.

The mutual striving to strengthen cooperation between the USSR and Morocco in the search for a political solution to the Kuwaiti crisis and for a subsequent peaceful reconstruction in the region was expressed.

The same day V.F. Petrovskiy had a meeting with A. Filali, Morocco's minister of foreign affairs and cooperation.

Yu.M. Rybakov, the USSR's ambassador to Morocco, was present at the meetings.

Planned Pan-Arab Summit Seen as 'Golden Chance'

LD1411174790 Moscow TASS in English 1729 GMT 14 Nov 90

[By TASS political analyst Yuriy Tyssovskiy]

[Text] Moscow November 14 TASS—King Hassan II of Morocco's call for a prompt convocation of a pan-Arab summit is headline news all over the world.

Jordan, the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Mauritania and Sudan have already expressed support for the idea. Iraq seems to agree, although it has set a number of conditions, many of which appear unacceptable to quite a few Arab states.

Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Syria, to an extent, will probably have the last say on the proposal. The leaders of these countries are now engaged in intensive consultations.

Another, no less important piece of news, is that Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen has refused to assure Saddam Husayn that China will not support a Security Council resolution giving the go-ahead to multinational forces to begin combat operations gainst Iraq's occupation troops in Kuwait if all other measures fail.

Using hostages and differing interests of various countries, Husayn counted on splitting the coalition opposing him. That his calculation was erroneous became immediately clear after Husayn's meeting with the Chinese minister. Following the meeting, Husayn dispatched envoys to Rabat, Amman, Tripoli and Algiers in order to define directions of work at the pan-Arab conference if it is eventually convoked.

Against this sensational background many people have overlooked Qian Qichen's statement that "the present crisis is a problem for Arab countries to resolve and should be tackled by their leaders."

Arabs are not the only nations concerned, as many regard Husayn's annexation of Kuwait as a challenge to the emerging new order in international relations.

It is clear, however, that the Arab community has the prime role to play in the search for a political settlement. Soviet diplomats share this view. The Soviet president's special envoys Aleksandr Belonogov and Vladimir Petrovskiy are now on a mission to establish contacts with the leaders of a number of countries in the region, seeking to activate the Arab factor while urging the implementation of U.N. Security Council's resolutions on the issue.

There are many obstacles to the pan-Arab conference. The Iraq invasion has caused an abrupt polarisation of positions taken by different Arab countries. Under these conditions a pan-Arab forum needs thorough preparation in order to avoid the failure and disaster, according to the JORDAN TIMES, which repeatedly happened in the past.

No matter whether some Arab countries sympathise with Iraq or otherwise, depending on the recognition that its military potential is capable, in the opinion of many, to oppose Israel and Iran, their feelings should give place to the awareness that the Iraqi leader's present policy is fraught with extreme danger.

The Arab world has been offered a golden chance—most likely the last one—to avoid a major war in the region.

Commentary Assesses Chances of Gulf Peace

PM1411123690 Moscow NEW TIMES in English No 45, 6-12 Nov 90 pp 7-9

[Article by Aleksey Vasilyev: "Time Is Running Out"]

[Text] How can the Gulf crisis be settled by political means? For instance, Washington and Baghdad agree on measures for the relaxation of tension directly or through a mediator, say, through the Soviet Union. Iraq agrees in principle to withdraw its troops from Kuwait, restoring the sovereignty of that country and granting its people the right to decide their destiny themselves. Together

with the evacuation of Iraqi troops from Kuwait, the United States begins to pull its troops out of Saudi Arabia. Furthermore, Saddam Husayn renounces the production of chemical, biological and other weapons of mass annihilation and cuts down his army.

The borders of Middle East states are guaranteed by the United Nations, and the parties concerned enter into talks aimed at reaching a solution to the Palestinian problem, the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Lebanon puzzle. Iraq and Kuwait hold talks through the Arab League for a settlement of disputes between them. The event of a political settlement, the sphere of activities of the Arab League or the Organization of the Islamic Conference could be expanded so that regional security would be provided by the Armed Forces of Middle Eastern countries, while Western troops would leave the area. Simultaneously, an economic development fund is set up by oil-rich countries with a small population to ensure an annual investment of $15 to $25 billion in other Arab states.

So a political settlement of the crisis is possible. However, there is little chance of that happening. Passions are running high. Saddam Husayn has put a great stake in the venture. Western leaders have avanced rather tough terms. Why does a chance, nevertheless, exist? In case of an armed clash, Saddam Husayn is doomed to death, and not only of a political nature. He has a long record of actions incompatible with the principles of international law and humanity. After an armed conflict, surely to end in a defeat for Iraq, Husayn would hardly remain alive. He would also risk his life by leaving Kuwait. Saddam Husayn could undermine his positions within the country and fall victim to a military coup or popular revolution. However, he has a chance to survive by telling the people that he has won a "victory." The regime of Siad Barre in Somalia remained in power after a much worse defeat. The clock is ticking away and time is running out.

Lessons of the Crisis

The past three months of the Gulf crisis show that the United States has proved ready in the military respect for the first major international conflict since the end of the cold war. However, it has proved less ready economically and even less ready politically. The devastation of Kuwait taking place in the eyes of the world is pushing the United States towards a quick military solution. It can be supposed that an armed action against the aggressor will be approved by the United Nations. What will happen then?

The United States will immediately demonstrate its air superiority. The Iraqi air force and anti-aircraft defence will, perhaps, be wiped out together with a considerable part of that country's missile potential. However, the Iraqi troops have the experience of an eight-year war against Iran. Moreover, they have been told they are defending their homeland. They have dug deep in the earth and are prepared for defence. That is why they can offer resistance for weeks, if not months.

Of course, all this is conjecture to a certain extent. It is difficult to say how stable the dictatorship will prove to be in the event of its military defeat. It is possible that Iraqi defences will collapse quickly. However, any military strategist should also take the worst scenario into account, namely, protracted fighting. It is not known how Iran and other Arab countries will behave in such a situation. The United States, its allies and countries supporting them should take political steps, among them, a declaration on the temporary presence of American and other Western troops in the Middle East and a pledge to take urgent measures for a solution of the Palestinian problem and to adopt a "Marshall Plan" for the Middle East.

The world community has unanimously agreed that the annexation of Kuwait is an inadmissible act. The United States has declared its adherence to the principles and standards of international law. It has also declared that aggression is intolerable and that the aggressor will be punished for his actions. The need to observe the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries has also been affirmed. In this respect the United States has found an overwhelming support in the world community. True, some Arab countries failed to approve these principles and standards.

No consensus has been reached, however, on the terms of using force. About 25 countries have dispatched troops or token forces to the Arabian desert. But most of them are not prepared to launch hostilities unless attacked or seriously provoked by Iraq.

To Die for Oil?

U.S. policy is influenced by several factors. The main factor is the threat to its oil supplies. It can be supposed that if similar aggression were committed against an African country, the United States would not bring such a powerful military force to bear. Those Congressmen who are concerned about electoral support, and thus petrol prices, stress that the aim of U.S. operations in the region is to defend the oil interests of the United States and the West as a whole.

Meanwhile the suspension of oil deliveries from Iraq and Kuwait and inflated consumer demand have sent oil prices up, reaching $40 a barrel. Experts predict that if hostilities begin, oil prices could soar to $100 a barrel. The flow of oil from the Persian Gulf will, certainly, be ensured, but at such prices and in such quantities that the rates of economic growth of Western countries could lower while inflation rise substantially.

The oil-importing countries of the Third World and Eastern Europe will find themselves in a particularly difficult situation. An economic recession will set off coups and political upheavals in a number of developing states and is likely to slow the transition to Western pluralist models in Eastern Europe. The West and Saudi

Arabia have found the money to help Egypt and Turkey, which have directly suffered from events in the Persian Gulf. But will aid be given to Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and the Philippines, which suffered considerably as a result of the return of ruined immigrants from the Persian Gulf are and the halting of money remittances? When such an economic blow is attended by the growth of prices of imported fuel, the situation becomes desperate.

During serious crises, Americans—usually peaceful on the whole—rally round their leader. President Bush's actions are supported by a vast majority of Americans. However, at least two questions arise here.

How long can American troops stay in the Arabian desert before U.S. public opinion loses its patience? If a war breaks out, American public opinion can be split. Leaflets with the slogan, "USA, hands off Persian Gulf!" are now being distributed on university campuses. The following questions are posed: "Do you want to die or kill for the sake of interests of oil monopolies? Do you want to have an inscription on your grave: "He died so that the price of gallon of oil could remain the same." This is, of course, the voice of an absolute minority. It is the opinion of those who do not determine U.S. policy. However, the voice of the minority will be heard more loudly if the crisis drags out. This is already proved by mass demonstrations against interference in the Gulf conflict.

Moslens and Christians

Planning a military solution, many Western leaders, however, ignore some important considerations. The line of confrontation between the West and the East, the U.S. and the USSR is now being replaced by a confrontation between the North and the South. The Soviet Union is desperately trying to acquire the social and political values of the Western civilization. However, the political behaviour of many Western leaders and mass media is guided by the need for an image of the enemy and an evil empire. Since the Soviet Union has ceased to be an evil empire, the Moslem world can assume the image of an enemy. This is very dangerous. The feelings of humiliation and frustration caused by the inability to overcome socio-economic difficulties and catch up with the West, the appearance of "Christian" troops near the holy places of Islam, the inability to make use of political sovereignty and decide interstate affairs without bloodshed engender stormy political processes in Arab and other Moslem countries, anti-Western and anti-American feelings and fundamentalist trends.

Let us take a realistic stand. Few Arabs support Saddam Husayn's annexationist designs. But if America bombs and missiles begin to kill Iraqis, sentiments will change decisively in the Middle East. The same will happen in the whole of the Moslem world, which also disapproves of Western actions in the area.

The anti-American and anti-Western trend of newly-revived Arab nationalism is being skillfully used by Baghdad. It is trying to turn the conflict between Iraq and a greater part of the world community into an Arab-Israeli one. According to Baghdad, today as before Israel is backed by the United States. The lack of imagination and flexibility in the policy of the present Israeli leaders, stubborn "ideologists" fettered by obsolete stereotypes and deprived of imagination, incapable of achieving conciliation with the Palestinians at a crucial moment only plays into the hands of Saddam Husayn. The tragic events in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv's refusal to fulfil the Security Council resolutions and cooperate with a UN mission add weight—in the eyes of many Arabs and other people—to Baghdad's propagandist statements about the "double standards" of U.S. behaviour in the region.

The chances of a peaceful settlement in the Gulf would increase in case of at least some progress in the solution of the Palestinian problem and in the relaxation of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The scholastic dispute about the "linkage" between the two conflicts is simply needless at a moment when some progress towards a political settlement, at least in one of the directions, is required.

The situation in the world, now on the threshold of the 21st century, is complicated by the fact that the different civilizations and social systems have not yet reached a mutual understanding. The gap between Western and Moslem ideals of a social system is characterized, for instance, by the attitude to democracy. For the West, democracy is real power of the majority formed through elections. For the Moslem world, the joint existence of all its members is based upon a consensus which does not recognize the power of a mechanical majority. In the West, laws are made by people and express the will of nations. Moslems are guided by the Sharia, based on Allah's commandments. They were revealed through his prophets and interpreted by ulemas. It is yet a long way to go towards a harmonious combination of the values of the Western and Moslem civilizations.

These problems are facing the West as well as the Soviet Union and a new union between Russia, other Slavic republics and republics with a predominant Moslem population. Crises reveal the problems accumulated through decades.

A World Consisting of Many Poles

Of course, many people in the West would like to see Soviet troops together with American troops in the Arabian desert. Voices in favour of such a measure are also heard in the Soviet Union. However, it is a complex issue, and not only because Soviet public opinion is on the whole against the participation of Soviet troops in operations outside the country—the Soviet people still have painful memories of the Afghan venture, not only because it can create a heavy economic burden, and not even because to dispatch troops to the Persian Gulf means to imperil the lives of our young people, in particular, for the sake of keeping oil for American consumers cheap.

The thing is that the Soviet Union enjoys trust among the Arabs. It has not yet lost this trust. At the same time, the Soviet Union is rapidly gaining trust in the West. It should play a constructive role. Such was precisely the mission of Yevgeniy Primakov, a special envoy of the Soviet President, which he carried out both in Arab and Western capitals. There is no need for the Soviet Union to come out in this conflict in the role of a NATO power. Condemning the aggressor, it should play its own, special role in its own interests, in the interests of the Arabs and the West. The millenium of joint coexistence of Christian Slavs and Moslems in the territory of the present Soviet Union should prompt forms and methods of solving problems between the North and the South, and between the West and the Moslem world.

In conditions of democracy, when public approval or disapproval will be expressed more often by means of elections, the Soviet Union's Middle East policy, which was previously formulated by the party leadership and did not take public opinion into account, should increasingly depend on the sentiments of the Soviet people. It will be a complex combination of the genuine interests, sympathies and antipathies of various nations, ethnic groups and segments of the population. Among them is the position of the Slavic majority which has retained certain orthodox traditions, with a special attitude of the Church towards the problems of Jerusalem.

It will be recalled that never have Russians fought against Arabs. The only exception was the sea battle at Navarino in 1827. This policy must take into account the legitimate and natural sympathies of 70 million Moslems who live in our federation and for whom Jerusalem, Palestine and Arabia are not mere spots on the map. It must also consider the legitimate and natural sympathies of Soviet Jews, at least a substantial part of them, in relation to Israel.

The Gulf crisis also raises the question of the role of new superpowers—Germany and Japan. The Second World War aroused the fears of the neighbours and former opponents of these countries with regard to their military role in the world and also the repulsion of public opinion within Germany and Japan for a military solution of international problems. However, the ending of rivalry between the Soviet Union and the United States does not at all mean that the international community becomes unipolar. On the contrary, the bipolar world is changing into a world consisting of many poles.

The new role of Germany and Japan will, apparently, consist in their more active participation in the solution of international problems. While respecting the historical role of France and Britain, one can question the legitimacy of the situation in which Japan and Germany are not permanent members of the UN Security Council. The number of permanent members of the Security Council must, evidently, be increased.

The multipolar system of international cooperation will help to work out more flexibly the standards and principles of international law which suits all peoples, all civilizations, and not only those who share the Western system of values.

If the crisis in the Persian Gulf helps to devise the model of a political settlement of similar conflicts by joint efforts of the world community, this will, probably, be a positive outcome to the present tragic situation.

Katushev Describes Outcome of Saudi Trade Talks

PM1311152790 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 7-13 Nov 90 pp 34-35

[Interview with USSR Foreign Economic Relations Minister Konstantin Katushev by Hani Naqshabandi in Jeddah; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Naqshabandi] Were any trade or economic agreements between the two countries drawn up during your meetings with Saudi officials headed by the custodian of the two holy mosques?

[Katushev] We dealt with wide-ranging issues of trade and economic cooperation. With regard to direct trade ties, we are forced to start from square one. This is because such ties have not existed hitherto. Dealings between the Saudi and Soviet markets were carried out mainly via brokers. We have seen some Soviet goods on the Saudi market and have seen on the Soviet market Saudi goods and products imported through brokers. For example, in 1988 we purchased over 200,000 tonnes of Saudi wheat via a West German company.

[Naqshabandi] How do you view the potential volume of trade exchange between the two countries in view of the establishment of diplomatic relations and the strengthening of trade ties?

[Katushev] The trade volume is expected to reach approximately 10 million rubles or the equivalent of $15 million [figures as published] by the end of the year. But it is possible to increase the volume of economic cooperation and trade exchange between the two countries. [passage omitted]

[Naqshabandi] How do you view the Saudi economic market?

[Katushev] It is difficult to assess the Saudi market's full capabilities on the basis of our recent visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. But during out meeting with the representatives of trade circles we heard about the market's need for some types of goods and commodities like electronics and raw material which can be supplied by the Soviet market. And if the Saudi market's imports of Soviet products are increased, we would have the currency resources which would, in turn, enable us to import from the Saudi market, which has some goods in which the Soviet side is interested. For example, there are the high-quality Saudi petrochemicals as well as the

latest technology used in producing lead-free petrol. We need and are interested in having similar capabilities in the Soviet Union.

[Naqshabandi] How do you view the impact of the current crisis on the economic position of the Soviet Union and the Gulf region's states after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait?

[Katushev] The Iraqi invasion and the crisis resulting from it in the Gulf have affected the Soviet economy negatively and substantially. Our losses could reach some $8-10 billion.

With regard to the Gulf region, the outbreak of war would lead to negative and serious results which would be difficult to redress.

The international community and the Security Council have adopted sound and correct resolutions designed to confront the Iraqi aggression. And the Soviet Union has at some points played an active role in presenting an initiative to resolve the crisis. We believe that that position is bound to help the Soviet Union to develop its relations with the region.

Dzasokhov Interviewed on Ties With Syria, Mideast

JN1411155890 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Interview with Aleksandr Dzasokhov, member of the CPSU Politburo and chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission at the USSR Supreme Soviet, in Moscow by SANA correspondent Sulayman Abu-Diyab; date not given—Dzasokhov speaks in Russian with superimposed Arab translation; recorded]

[Text] [Abu-Diyab] We are pleased to meet you on Syrian television while our Arab people, who hold all respect for you, are celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Corrective Movement. A short time ago, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the signing of the treaty of friendship and cooperation between Syria and the USSR. The two events point to the deep Syrian-Soviet relations. How do you assess these relations and what are the prospects for their development?

[Dzasokhov] I understood your words in Arabic about my position. This is good, but it was better for you to tell our friendly Syrian viewers that they are now watching your faithful friend. I, therefore, would like to extend to our Syrian friends the warmest feelings of admiration and congratulations. I trust that our Syrian-Soviet relations will develop constantly in the future. The desires of our peoples met in November. The concerned politicians and statesmen in our country studied the results the Syrian-Soviet friendship and cooperation treaty has yielded over the past 10 years. Our political, economic, human, and cultural relations have developed steadily and firmly. It has been proved through the 10 years that the agreement embodied our peoples' will, that it reflected our identical viewpoints on the international situation, and that it played a role in the positive development of the international march. Over the past 10 years, our relations have been stable and solid. I, therefore, value this agreement highly and want to stress that the leader of the Syrian Arab people, the great friend of our country, esteemed President Hafiz al-Asad, was the champion of the agreement. During his visits to Moscow and his meetings in Damascus, he always stressed that any agreement to be signed by the leaderships of the two countries must reflect and embody the will and desires of the two peoples. This is very important.

[Abu-Diyab] As you know, a short time ago, Michel 'Awn's rebellion was put to an end, and Lebanon began a new phase of development. What is your comment on the situation in Lebanon and Syria's role in that country?

[Dzasokhov] We in the Soviet Union are happy that there are now changes in tormented Lebanon—changes that may lead to the maintenance of Lebanon's territorial integrity, sovereignty, and national reconciliation. I would like to stress that there are changes, but that Israeli forces are still in southern Lebanon, and the situation there is still complicated. Driving the Israeli forces out of southern Lebanon as desired by the international community and UN resolutions is still on the list of interests. On the other hand, it must be said that the current changes in Lebanon reinforce confidence in the importance of the Arab factor in solving problems in the Arab world and the Middle East. We, therefore, must gratefully remember the al-Ta'if agreement. I, together with many Soviets, understand Syria's basic role. Lebanon and Syria are two neighbors, and Syria cannot possibly be unconcerned about what happens in Lebanon. The world must understand this fact. When Syria plays a role in these events, it proceeds from its concern about Arab interests and about solving the problems of the Middle East, especially in Lebanon. This, however, does not mean Syria is not concerned about what happens in Lebanon. Syria's role has always been constructive, and events have proved that this conduct is the only option. It must be said that the recent Syrian assistance to the legitimate Lebanese Government is in full harmony with the al-Ta'if accord.

[Abu-Diyab] Can you give us an assessment of the situation in the Gulf as a result of Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and also of Syria's role in solving this problem?

[Dzasokhov] Analyses, assessments, and predictions are being made throughout the world. They are all characterized by fear and worry. The world is now moving toward cordial neighborliness in relations, new political thinking, and refraining from the use of force. And, all of a sudden, this development emerged. Everybody in the world, including the Soviet Union and the Security Council, took firm measures. We support all resolutions adopted by the Security Council. However, we are doing all that is possible so that the situation may not take on a military nature, because such a development will be a disaster for everybody. There will be many victims and

formidable destruction. Every means must be used to prevent this. It is useful to remember the tour of the Soviet president's envoy, Mr. Primakov, who recently returned from the region. Through this tour, we underscored the importance of the Arab viewpoint. Primakov met with leaders of a number of Arab countries. The good and useful thing is that Mr. Primakov visited Damascus and met with President Hafiz al-Asad. As far as I know, the meeting was extremely constructive. I felt proud to be a friend of Syria.

Syria's leader, as he always does, is measuring things in the Gulf and dealing with them calmly, wisely, and creatively. He supports all efforts to find a peaceful solution to this problem. Syria plays an important role in the issue, and it can play an additional role so that we can avoid a military clash and disaster. We must do everything possible to achieve this. Syria views the problems from all perspectives, and I believe in its ability to move correctly. But before I end my statement, I would like to congratulate the Syrian people on the 20th anniversary of the Corrective Movement. It is a very important historical event in the life of the Syrian people, and it has much in common with the perestroyka. We Soviets congratulate Syria and its leadership on this dear anniversary.

[Abu Diyab] We thank Syria's great and dear friend, as he introduced himself at the beginning of his statement. Thank you.

Palestinian Leader Hawatimah Interviewed

PM1411122390 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 14 Nov 90 Second Edition p 5

[Interview with Nayif Hawatimah, general secretary of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, by V. Kokarev; place and date not given: "Justice Cannot Be Selective: Nayif Hawatimah on Near East Settlement"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] Perhaps the reports coming in from the Near East today contain no "hotter" topics than the crisis in the Persian Gulf and the Palestinian problem. Our correspondent met with Nayif Hawatimah, general secretary of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), and asked him to express himself on these topical issues.

[Kokarev] How would you describe the situation in the region, considering the crisis in the Persian Gulf has been added to the Palestinian problem?

[Hawatimah] The discussion of these topics was the central issue at the talks between our delegation and official Soviet representatives. Our region is now a powder keg, figuratively speaking. The U.S. Administration opposes any attempt at a settlement within an Arab framework. It is also regrettable that Saudi Arabia and Egypt are putting pressure on the United States with a view to pushing the United States toward active military operations against Iraq.

On the other hand, having visited Iraq, Jordan, Algeria, and Yemen recently, I have come to the opinion that the leaders of these states want to achieve a settlement of the crisis by peaceful political means. We are in solidarity with the position of the Soviet Union, which does not accept the use of force.

[Kokarev] What do you think of the introduction of economic sanctions against Iraq?

[Hawatimah] We are against blockading the people. UN sanctions also imply a ban on deliveries of food and medical supplies to Iraq. But the settling of accounts with the Iraqi Government cannot be transferred to the people. In addition, I believe that it is essential to fulfill all UN resolutions. After all, there is a situation when the United States for one is insisting on the implementation of the UN decisions on the Persian Gulf but for a long time has been creating and is continuing to create obstacles to the fulfillment of resolutions on the Palestinian question. And how are we to understand the fact that for 23 years now Israel has been occupying Arab territories but no economic blockade is undertaken against it? As you can see, the United States is pursuing a policy of double standards, not guided by the principles of international law.

[Kokarev] Despite the crisis in the Gulf region, which has been continuing for a little over three months, the world continues to witness the unabating intifada. How do you assess statements that the Palestinians should move from a "war of stones" to a "war of knives?" Especially as on the occupied territories cases of the use of weapons by Arabs against Israelis, even the civilian population, have become more frequent.

[Hawatimah] The uprising, which has been continuing for over two years, is an unprecedented example of the participation of an entire people in the struggle for their rights. The whole world supports the intifada.

How will the intifada develop in the future? We realize that a revolution of stones cannot counter modern weapons: tanks, helicopters, and so forth. The DFLP and the PLO as a whole are now struggling for the intifada to retain its peaceful nature. Armed attacks by Arabs on Israelis are few and far between. That is the result of the decline in morale among some Palestinians. But Israel's bloody actions place the Palestinian people in hard conditions. From time to time there are events like the massacre of Arabs on the Temple Mount in East Jerusalem 8 October this year. The international community is doing nothing specific to punish Israel for actions like October's. But we know that the stones are in any case inflicting "bloody wounds" on the Israeli economy and the moral identity of Israeli society. Incidents like the massacre on the Temple Mount increase the likelihood that the Palestinians will take similar retaliatory actions. We have the right to offer armed resistance to Israel.

[Kokarev] In your opinion, has there been a change in the position of Israel and the United States with regard to a settlement of the Palestinian problem?

[Hawatimah] The Americans adhere stubbornly to the "Baker plan" and the Israeli Government to the "Shamir plan," both of which we believe encroach on our rights. These two countries reject an international solution of the Palestinian question and are even trying to achieve support from the PLO for the U.S.-Israeli option.

[Kokarev] What do you think about the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel?

[Hawatimah] The continuing influx of Jews from the Soviet Union into Israel is having a dangerous effect on the demographic situation in the country. If this process proceeds at this pace, the Israelis will be able to impose enforced emigration from the country on the Palestinians. In addition, let us ask: Is it that essential for the Soviet Jews to go to Israel? No. But the United States is "closing its doors" to the emigres, planning to take no more than 50,000 this year. Why? Because the United States wants the emigration of Jews to the Near East.

Many of the Jews who have left the USSR for the "promised land" have already understood that Israel is far from being the paradise they were promised.

[Kokarev] In your view, how objectively do the Soviet mass media cover the state of the Palestinian problem and events in the Persian Gulf?

[Hawatimah] Right now, in contrast to former years, the mass media do not reflect only the official viewpoint. Their reports contain both positive and negative elements. Many sensible articles are published on the Palestinian issue. The main thing for us is the USSR's official policy and real steps. Our talks with the Soviet representatives confirmed the adherence of your country's leadership to the search for a just solution to the Palestinian problem.

Former Israeli Agent's Revelations Viewed

91UF0127A Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 3 Nov 90 Second Edition p 3

[Article by V. Afanasyev: "The Mossad Stands Accused—Firsthand Information on the Operation of the Israeli Security Service"]

[Text] A huge, 100-foot (30.5 meters)-long map on the wall was one of the things that particularly struck Victor Ostrovsky when he found himself in the Tel Aviv headquarters of the Mossad for the first time. Tiny squares were lit on the map, based on which one could get an idea of the operational situation and actions of "the enemy" throughout the world. This is what a former agent of the Mossad, the Israeli foreign-policy intelligence service, describes in his book "By Way of Deception: The Making and Unmaking of a Mossad Officer." Fifty thousand copies of his memoirs about the 14 months of his work in intelligence were sold in one day after an appeals court in New York lifted the ban on the sale of the book.

The methods of Mossad operations have always been marked by unscrupulousness, cruelty, and the indiscriminate use of means to an end. The chief of the Mossad, whose name is classified, should report on his work to the prime minister and act in keeping with his instructions. In April, at the beginning of a new fiscal year, the state controller informs the chiefs of intelligence centers of the funds appropriated to them. The minister of finance requests reports on the expenditures of the Mossad, Shin Bet, and other intelligence services once in 10 years. However, as the magazine AL-ARD reports, this request absolutely has not been met.

The magazine MONITIN published in Israel reported that the Mossad is afflicted by corruption and political intrigues, and is torn by factional interests. As a journalistic investigation carried out by its correspondent showed, many ranking officers of the agency have, simply put, sticky fingers, in addition to the cruel treatment of those under investigation, withholding important information from the government to further their own interests, and other already known vices. Tremendous sums are spent not as they were earmarked, or are altogether embezzled by the officers of the special service.

The Soviet Union and countries of Eastern Europe may be found among the "enemies" of Israel marked on the Mossad's lighted map. Collecting information on the Soviet Union, its policy with regard to the Arab countries and Israel, decisions in this area made by the Soviet Union, in particular those involving emigration to Israel, is one of the most important tasks of the Zionist intelligence service. The Israeli intelligence service prepares and carries out acts of political terrorism, subversion, and economic sabotage.

As the magazine NEWSWEEK testifies, Ostrovsky's book became a sensation in the United States and Canada and "created a furor in Israel." The author describes "greed, lust, and lack of respect for human life" which prevail in the Mossad. They train highly skilled agents, on whom they impress that "there are three major 'hooks' for recruiting people: money, emotion, be it revenge or ideology, and sex." In his words the Mossad is a highly technological but small organization which has only 1,200 employees. However, they use the services of thousands of volunteers who are available throughout the world and are prepared to give the Israelis the use of their banks, hotels, travel agencies, and other organizations and enterprises.

In the words of NEWSWEEK magazine, Ostrovsky levels several accusations against the Mossad.

First. Since 1978, the Mossad has been running top secret spy operations in the United States. A unit codenamed "Al" ("the supreme Jew") uses between 24 and 27 agents, who are run by three superbly trained specialists reporting directly to the chief of the Mossad. A certain Nahum Admony was chief for six years, until he resigned from his position in the spring of 1989.

Second. Ostrovsky maintains that in 1979 "AI" engineered the resignation of U.S. representative at the United Nations Andrew Young, who was in sympathy with the Palestinians. Allegedly a conversation was intercepted during which he agreed to meet with Z. Terzi, PLO representative at the United Nations, at the house of the Kuwaiti UN representative. The residence of the Kuwaiti was stuffed with monitoring devices ("bugs"). On learning about the meeting compromising A. Young, the Israelis made noise, and he had to give up his position.

The third episode that caused outrage in the United States involved the events of 1983 in Beirut. At the time a Mossad informant reported to his patrons about a huge Mercedes truck being readied for the transportation of explosives. After analyzing the available information the Mossad people came to the conclusion that in this case "there could be only a few logical targets," including actions against the American and French barracks in Lebanon. However, they did not see fit to notify their "strategic ally" of the conspiracy hatched by Shi'ite Muslims. As a result of terrorist acts 270 American and French soldiers were killed.

NEWSWEEK writes in this regard: "It will not be a revelation to say that Israel is prepared to risk American lives in order to create estrangement between the United States and Arab countries." It goes on to cite the example of Israeli agents secretly blowing up American and British installations in Egypt in 1954 hoping to pin everything on the Arabs.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir provided no explanation of reasons his country demands that Ostrovsky's book be banned. Does this really call for explanations? NEWSWEEK believes that the Mossad's loss of face in recent years may be the reason.

Its agents have frequently suffered one failure after another, and the intelligence service itself has been more and more frequently ostracized in Israel.

Ostrovsky's book has had repercussions in Sri Lanka. Its government has resolved to conduct a comprehensive investigation of the author's assertions regarding the activities of the agency training Tamil separatists in Israel. As its former agent wrote, the Mossad trained Sri Lankan commandos to conduct anti-insurgency operations. At the same time, it trained the separatists, Tamil commandos from the group "Liberation Tigers of 'Tamil Eelam,'" supplying weapons to both. Above all, they are outraged in Sri Lanka by the duplicity of Tel Aviv, which trained Sri Lankans to kill each other.

For example, as a FRANCE PRESSE correspondent reports, in a recent interview to the Sri Lankan newspaper THE SUNDAY OBSERVER Ostrovsky said that the Tamil "Tigers" had successfully used antipersonnel mines in fighting government troops and Indian servicemen deployed to Sri Lanka in keeping with an agreement between Colombo and Delhi in July 1987. "The Tigers" had purchased Israeli-manufactured mines, as well as mines captured by Israeli troops from Syria, Egypt, and the PLO. The mines had been modified in such a manner as to make it seem that they had been manufactured in the Soviet Union.

Meanwhile, V. Ostrovsky, who lives in an Ottawa suburb, resumed his work as an artist and sketch artist. He stated to a NEWSWEEK correspondent that he had approached the Canadian authorities with a request for protection against revenge by his former masters. He said: "I am here, and I want to know what comes next."

Kabul Garrison Commander Interviewed

91UF0124A Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 2 Nov 90 Second Edition p 5

[Report on interview with Army General Mohammad Nabi Azimi, first deputy minister of defense of the Republic of Afghanistan and commander of the Kabul garrison, by A. Pravov, correspondent for IZVESTIYA AKADEMII NAUK and SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA: "The Difficult Month of Mizan—the 'Steadfasts' Prepare a Fresh Assault on the Afghan Capital"]

[Text] Kabul—The number of tanks on the streets of Kabul has increased noticeably. Armored columns move to a front line of defense located quite near the Afghan capital—a distance of 30-40 kilometers. And this is the radius of the security belt around the city. Farther out, depopulated rural Afghan villages are controlled in many instances by armed detachments of mujahidin. From there they bombard Kabul with American rockets brought in from Pakistan. The range of these weapons is ever increasing as the security belt is widened.

The amount of bombardment has decreased noticeably in recent days, however. In mid-October, only on one occasion did four rockets come from a northwesterly direction, from Shakardary. On the whole, we must note that Kabul has become calmer. The degree of nervousness over mujahidin plans to storm the city has fallen.

There can be no doubt but that such plans did in fact exist. A variety of radio stations—Western, as well as those of the mujahidin—reported from Peshawar concerning the preparedness of armed opposition detachments to engage in a decisive encounter. In no way did the information come from all the leaders of groups in the "Alliance of Seven," only from two of them—Hekmatyar and Sayyaf, representing the most extreme wing of the opposition. It is the judgment of the Kabul government, as expressed in a statement it issued, that they were prodded towards intensifying military activity in Afghanistan by the Pakistani military.

The remaining five leaders of the "Alliance" did not support plans for expanding military activity. Even Mojaddedi, leader of the so-called "transitional government of Afghan mujahidin," came out in sharp opposition to an assault on Kabul insofar as such an assault would, in his words, "lead to casualties among Kabul

Muslims." Nor did the majority of the opposition field commanders operating in Afghanistan itself support the plans of the extremists.

But in spite of anything else, Hekmatyar and Sayyaf detachments began operations on the 16th day of the Afghan month of Mizan [23 Sep-22 Oct], which corresponds to 8 October, attacking a government garrison in Shakardary. On the 17th of Mizan, 15 security posts were attacked in Kuh-e Safi to the northeast of the city, Hakejabar to the east, and Argandha to the west. The attack began at 4:30 in the morning and ended at nine. It was carried out with the use of artillery, mortars, and grenade launchers. At one post in Chinar, there were over 1000 mortar shells detonated and 150 grenade launcher firings. But the post withstood and repulsed all attacks.

The most difficult direction from which to defend was south of the city, in the region of Lowgar. Here the mujahidin had transferred a great amount of weapons and ammunition, brought over from Pakistan in trucks and on pack animals. For this reason the posts defended by government troops here were intensely supported by artillery fire. Aircraft carried out several bombing and ground attack strikes. As a result, the mujahidin suffered heavy casualties.

[Pravov] "How many people in all participated in the operation in the Kabul region on the side of the opposition?"

[Azimi] "About 20,000."

[Pravov] "What losses did they incur?"

[Azimi] "About 500 killed, and the same number wounded. Among the fatalities were 17 commanders. There were 720 vehicles and a large amount of weapons and ammunition destroyed."

[Pravov] "What do you think—does there exist today the danger of an assault on Kabul?"

[Azimi] "Danger of an assault—yes; danger of the city being taken by opposition detachments—no. We are in complete control of the situation. The enemy does not have sufficient forces to be able to rely on success...."

We were speaking with the general in an office in the Defense Ministry building. In March of this year, the building was seriously damaged when conspirators headed by former Defense Minister Shah Nawaz Tana'i took refuge in it, attempting to overthrow the state. Today the building has been completely repaired. It is somewhat strange to see not the amber-yellow it used to be, but gray instead.

[Pravov] "Is it true that Tana'i is today somewhere in the Kabul area together with Hekmatyar detachments?"

[Azimi] "There have been rumors to that effect. But we do not have precise information. On the other hand, I can state accurately that all the rumors that continue to circulate concerning the possibility of revolt within Kabul are groundless. It seems to me the March events taught conspiracy lovers a great deal."

[Pravov] "But Hekmatyar states repeatedly that both he and Tana'i have quite a number of supporters in Kabul."

[Azimi] "The idea of a 'fifth column' in the city 'burned down' with the fire in the building you and I are sitting in right now."

[Pravov] "How do you see future events taking shape in the Kabul area?"

[Azimi] "We can only count on the fact that the opposition will come to understand that it will never be able to attain any power whatsoever. The path towards resolving the Afghan problem lies in negotiations alone."

[Pravov] "But in the meantime, the country is at war...."

[Azimi] "We are forced to oppose the armed attacks of an enemy. But the government is calling for a cease-fire and the conduct of free elections under United Nations supervision. The opposition must take a step to meet us halfway."

When I returned from the ministry building, I again ran into a tank column moving in the direction of Lowgar. Heavy trucks carrying ammunition were moving along with it. Military activity in the Kabul region continues, although there can be no doubt but that its intensity is beginning to decline....

East Europe

Leftist East European Parties Meet in Moscow

LD1411141990 Moscow TASS in English 1337 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Moscow November 14 TASS—A meeting of the leaders of the Bulgarian Socialist Party, the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, the Party of Democratic Socialism (Germany), the Polish Social Democrats, the Soviet Communist Party and the Czechoslovak Communist Party opened in Moscow today.

The meeting discussed policies pursued by the parties and the situation in Eastern Europe at this critical stage in European development.

Shevardnadze, Albania's Malile Exchange Greetings

LD1211155290 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] In connection with the 45th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the USSR and Albania, Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze has sent a telegram of congratulations to Malile, foreign minister of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania. It notes the importance of the normalization of relations which has been achieved by the USSR and Albania this year, the mutual

desire to restore cooperation in diverse spheres, and to go over to a qualitatively new stage in the relations between the two countries.

In his telegram, Foreign Minister Malile expressed confidence that the friendly relations between the USSR and Albania will be developing unswervingly for the good of the peoples in both countries, and peace and cooperation in Europe.

Bulgaria's Zhelev Argues for Coalition Government

PM1411101590 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Nov 90 Second Edition p 4

[Report by PRAVDA correspondent L. Zhmyrev on television interview with Bulgarian President Zh. Zhelev on 11 November—place not given]

[Text] Sofia, 12 Nov—Bulgaria's newspapers today publish a television interview given the day before by Zh. Zhelev, the country's president, to mark his first 100 days in office.

Our country is now experiencing a period in which a "monochrome" government, whether formed by the Union of Democratic Forces or the Bulgarian Socialist Party, cannot cope with the situation, the president stated. In my opinion, the government should be a coalition whose program would give freedom of action to the leaders of the political forces.

The question is who will dominate in the government. I personally am trying to convince people that the government should be dominated by the Bulgarian Socialist Party, Zh. Zhelev went on. If our opposition were just a little smarter it would agree to that option. Then historical justice would triumph.

I disagree with certain people, including my friends in the opposition, when they state that the people would not understand them if they joined a coalition with the communists, even in a government dominated, let us assume, by the Union of Democratic Forces. But these people are wrong. The people's instinct is far more correct and sound. It is just that there are politickers who say the kinds of things at rallies that please the crowd. I am convinced, and sociological research shows this, that a vast section of the population favors a coalition.

Gorbachev Congratulates New CPCZ Leaders

PM1211160990 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Nov 90 Second Edition p 5

[Congratulations message from President Mikhail Gorbachev to new Czechoslovak leaders; date not given]

[Text] To Comrade Pavol Kanis, chairman of the Czechoslovak Communist Party [CPCZ] Federal Council,

Comrade Miroslav Grebenicek, first deputy chairman of the CPCZ Federal Council:

Please accept my friendly congratulations on your election to leadership posts within the CPCZ Federal Council.

I wish you and all CSFR [Czech and Slovak Federal Republic] Communists successful activity in the name of the ideals of democracy and social justice and for the good of the working people.

[Signed] M. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee

Troop Withdrawal Concludes in Western Hungary

LD1311232990 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] The withdrawal of troops is in full swing in Hungary. Here is a report by Yevgeniy Shirokov.

[Begin recording] [Shirokov] It is the village of Hajmasker in western Hungary. The first train carrying Soviet troops was sent from here eight months ago. Today the last of the subdivisions stationed in the area is being seen off. From now on not a single Soviet soldier remains in western Hungary. This is an emotional picture of the solemn send-off ceremony. For a short time it has overshadowed the routine work that fills each day in the life of the Southern Group of Forces which is carrying out the operation named "withdrawal of troops" without interrupting their basic service duties.

All the operational communication links with the departing detachments and with the boarding points converge in this hall. Today we are allowed to come here for the first time.

[M.P. Burlakov, commander of the Southern Group of Forces] To date, about 55 percent of all military trains, over 50 percent of the group's personnel, 55 percent of the equipment and arms, and only 37 percent of material stocks have been withdrawn. This delay has been caused by the fact that the Hungarian side has failed to comply with its obligations to market 125,000 tonnes of cargo of material stocks; it was to have given us assistance in marketing this cargo on-site. [end recording]

PRAVDA Views Privatization of Polish Press

PM1411122190 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Nov 90 Second Edition p 6

[Article by PRAVDA correspondent A. Starukhin: "Newspaper Sale"]

[Text] Warsaw—It is quite possible that the inhabitants of Warsaw will soon be seeing new neon signs bearing the name Maxwell and the names of world publishing corporations when they walk past the buildings of newspaper editorial offices. This is now practically inevitable. For instance, the launch price of the popular ZYCIE WARSZAWY, which is one of the first to be sold on the public market, is already known to be 40 billion zlotys or just over $4 million. This price for this type of "article"

is not that high. According to preliminary information, Maxwell intends to acquire the newspaper.

By all accounts, Italian, American, and other firms will participate in the great newspaper sell-off. The West's attention to the Polish mass media is quite understandable, since more than a few bankrupt newspapers will be presented at the auction, as well as 118 of the country's most important periodicals, including both central and voivodship periodicals, and another 72 newspapers and journals are to be sold to joint stock companies and to owners of joint enterprises represented by journalists' collectives. The long list of publications includes EKSPRES WIECZORNY, SZTANDAR MLODYCH, DZIENNIK BALTYCKI, DZIENNIK LODZKI, and the social democratic TRYBUNA that is well known to us.

This large-scale sale is taking place as part of the nationwide policy of privatizing various sectors of the economy. At the same time, it is a consequence of demonopolization, which is also being carried out within the framework of the radical reforms on the way to the market. In this case, the organization that had the monopoly is the "Prasa-Ksiazka-Ruch" workers' publishing cooperative, which belonged mainly to the Polish United Workers Party in the recent past. Over 90 percent of Polish periodicals came within this concern's sphere of influence. Back in March, the Polish Parliament adopted a resolution abolishing the cooperative. Since then, the weakest cooperative newspapers and periodicals have been closing down in their dozens, but the monopoly organization has remained quite powerful. So now the deciding blow—all the property is being sold.

It should be noted that the first phase of privatization is planned to take approximately six months. During this phase, a large part of the "property" will be transferred into the hands of the state: three printing-works, the distribution agency, the CAF photographic agency, INTERPRESS, and ARS.... In the next two years, the government intends to sell these enterprises and organizations and their capital to private operators. The editorial and publishing collectives are seriously alarmed. At a news conference held by J. Drygalski, chairman of the abolition commission, journalists were particularly interested in the criteria that guide the authorities in determining that one publication should continue on a joint stock basis, belonging to an existing collective of newspaper workers, and another as the property of a foreign owner. The answer: The main criterion will be the principle of "moral justice."

However, this amorphous formula did not bring clarity into the matter but rather did the opposite—it only increased alarm. After all, the future may not be based on this principle by any means.

TASS Reports Soviet-Polish Economic Accord

LD1311222290 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1620 GMT 13 Nov 90

[By TASS correspondent Tamara Prudnikova]

[Text] Moscow, 13 November (TASS)—A Soviet-Polish agreement on mutual economic relations was signed here today by Konstantin Katushev, USSR minister of foreign economic relations, and Marcin Swiecicki, minister of foreign economic relations of the Republic of Poland.

The intergovernmental agreement envisages the creation of favorable conditions for the harmonious development of stable bilateral long-term economic relations on the principles of equality and mutual benefit in conditions of the transfer to market relations.

In accordance with this document, settlements and payments throughout the complex of economic relations between the Soviet Union and the Republic of Poland will, from 1 January 1991, be effected in freely convertible currency on terms accepted in world practice, including price formation.

In order to deepen mutual cooperation, both sides will promote the exchange of economic and commercial information, and also the organization of exhibitions, fairs and other publicity events.

The agreement stipulates that supplies of goods and services through contracts not fulfilled by 31 December 1990 will be affected on the terms envisaged in those contracts, proceeding from the need to complete the settlements in transferable rubles no later that 31 March 1991.

Romanian Embassy on Oppositionist's Expulsion

PM1411120790 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Nov 90 Union Edition p 5

[Letter from Romanian Embassy Press Department under the rubric: "From the International Departments' Mailbag": "'On the Grounds of Existing Laws'"]

[Text] Esteemed Mr. Chief Editor!

On 28 October, IZVESTIYA published a sensational front-page piece, headlined "Conference Opened With a Protest," about the fact that the international human rights conference in Timisoara did not admit Mr. Doru Braia, who, in the newspaper's words, "was exiled abroad by the Romanian authorities... for constantly criticizing President I. Iliescu and the National Salvation Front."

It would certainly also be interesting for IZVESTIYA readers to learn something about the essence of this important international forum's work. Unfortunately they are being presented with the kind of "information" that can only misinform people about the order of things in the new Romania. After all, it turns out that good

people are exiled for the simple reason that they have dared to criticize the president and National Salvation Front.

We wish to bring to your attention the contents of the official communique published on 3 April of this year concerning the expulsion from the country of the aforementioned Doru Constantin Braia... holder of "passport No. 463821 issued by the FRG authorities for stateless persons." It was decided to deprive this person of the right to reside in Romania for a period of up to five years on the grounds of the country's extisting laws for the following reasons:

"During his residence in Romania the aforementioned Doru Constantin Braia participated in public meetings, inciting people to provocative actions and breaches of the peace and public order, and slandered the Army and state organs in operation.... On 11 March he appeared at a rally in the city of Cluj alongside Doru Nicolae Popescu, a Canadian citizen of Romanian extraction and member of a legionnaire organization....

"On 1 April Doru Braia appeared at an unauthorized rally and pressed the television to broadcast an inflammatory interview with him which provoked numerous protests from the population and from certain people abroad, where he is known as a member of a neofascist organization which has its headquarters in Munich and pursues extremist and terrorist aims."

As is known, many people in Romania criticize President Ion Iliescu and the National Salvation Front both at rallies and in the mass media, often ignoring even the elementary rules of civilized decorum. However, as in any democratic country, nobody has been exiled from Romania on account of this.

We would be grateful if IZVESTIYA would publish the facts cited above.

With the greatest respect,

[Signed] Press Department, Romanian Embassy

West Europe

Threat To Block Trains to FRG Reported

PM1411144590 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 14 Nov 90 Second Edition p 1

[TASS report: "Planned Currency Shortage"]

[Text] Moscow—Unless the USSR Ministry of Railways earmarks 100 million foreign currency rubles, foreign railroads will block the passage of Soviet trains—this was stated 13 November at a press conference by A. Martynchuk, first deputy chief of the ministry's financial administration. Two foreign railroads—those of Switzerland and the FRG—have already brought a suit against the Ministry of Railways for the nonpayment of passage across their territories.

The transfer to direct contracts with foreign firms has led to the point where "Inturtrans" and industrial enterprises concluded contracts for the shipment of passengers and freight to a sum 200 million foreign currency rubles in excess of the Soviet railroads' currency revenue.

That, Anatoliy Vasilyevich explained, is why our financiers, pinned to the wall by the lack of funds, have been obliged to inform all organizations selling tickets for international travel that trade will be only for currency.

What is the way out?

In our view the USSR Law "On Currency Regulation," which is already fully prepared, should be adopted as soon as possible. It will create preconditions for the enterprises and organizations which intend to ship freight and passengers across foreign territory to pay for these trips in convertible [konvertiruyemaya] currency.

The next operational step which the government should take to cut the ground from under the speculators' feet and prevent stockjobbing is to organize immediately mass auctions for the sale of currency funds.

A last point: Before presenting citizens with the fact of particular measures, mechanisms should be created for emerging from complex situations. In this case it would have been possible to organize in advance a network of money exchange points.

Gorbachev Aide Views Arrangements for FRG Pullout

PM1411210390 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Nov 90 Union Edition p 3

[Article by G. Alimov: "President's Working Schedule"]

[Text] On the morning of 18 November, President M.S. Gorbachev will fly to Italy on a working visit. In Rome, it is expected that a Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation Between the USSR and Italy will be signed.

This was announced at a routine briefing by Vitaliy Ignatenko, aide to the USSR president and director of his press service. It is also proposed that an intergovernmental agreement on credits, an agreement on cooperation in the sphere of environmental protection, and other agreements will be signed in Rome.

After the signing of the Soviet-Italian documents there will be talks with Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, Foreign Minister de Michelis, and other state figures. The whole working visit, the director of the president's press service said, will last 1 day. At the end of that day there will be a ceremonial presentation to M.S. Gorbachev of the Fuggi Foundation prize awarded for an exceptional example in the struggle to affirm human rights.

It is planned that in the evening the USSR president will fly to Paris for the CSCE conference. He is due to speak there 19 November. During his stay in France (the trip is

scheduled to last until 21 November) the head of the Soviet state intends to hold a whole series of meetings with leaders of various CSCE countries.

Vitaliy Ignatenko drew the attention of Soviet and foreign journalists to documents signed between the Soviet Union and the FRG during the USSR president's recent visit to that country. These are the ones on which we were unable to give you all the details, the leader of the briefing noted; they were put to one side, as it were. What are they precisely? First of all, the treaty on the development of large-scale economic cooperation and an agreement on transitional measures. This treaty defines prospects for bilateral economic relations for 20 years. The most important provisions of this treaty are the principles of support for the continuity of trade and economic relations between the USSR and the FRG and the confirmation of those agreements which were signed between our country and the former GDR, particularly in the sphere of reciprocal deliveries for next year. As the presidential aide said, the German side pledged to support the efficient work of enterprises on the territory of the former GDR so as to maintain previously established links with the Soviet partners.

The leader of the briefing dwelt in particular on the accords on transitional measures. They are connected with the presence and subsequent withdrawal of the Western Group of Soviet Forces. As Ignatenko said, this is a delicate question inasmuch as it concerns the fate of hundreds of thousands of people. Several working groups have been formed to tackle the whole complex of emerging problems. One of the commissions will be directly responsible for the removal of hardware and equipment and Soviet personnel. The German side is allocating 3 billion marks [DM] for the upkeep of the Soviet troops and a further DM1 billion on transporting them to the Soviet Union. The Soviet Government commission on the management of these funds is headed by USSR First Deputy Defense Minister Lushev.

There is another extremely complex problem—the arrangements for the servicemen and their families back home. The FRG is investing DM7.8 billion in this. A commission has been created which will manage the use of these funds. It is planned to prepare a housing construction program to include the creation of house-building combines, the construction of apartment blocks and sociocultural facilities, and the purchase of construction equipment and materials. That sum will also be used to pay the construction workers who, it is planned, will be hired on a competitive basis. Who will win this competition? German construction workers? Soviet? Or workers from other countries? The director of the president's press service announced that in addition to everything else the sides had agreed to organize the retraining of Soviet servicemen both on German and USSR territory. In this respect it is planned to create retraining centers using money specially allocated—DM200 million. Next, as always, the moderator of the briefing was asked numerous questions. They included: Will the publication of the draft of the new Union treaty not be delayed in connection with the meeting between the USSR president and the chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet. The answer was no, the draft is to be published in the next few days.

Gorbachev Visit to FRG, Joint Treaty Evaluated

PM1411161190 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
14 Nov 90 Second Edition pp 1,5

[Report by PRAVDA special correspondents Ye. Grigoryev and V. Drobkov: "The Germans and the United States; Why the USSR President Went to Germany"]

[Text] Modern political life moves swiftly. An event takes place, and already life is moving on to the next item on the agenda. However, the visit to the FRG by Soviet head of state M.S. Gorbachev stands out.

The scale and significance of what happened in Soviet-German relations in two short days, 9 and 10 November, is stressed here in statements by statesmen and public organizations and in press commentaries. Past, present, and future—the entire "triad," as it applies to two great European peoples and to the entire continent, was the subject of the Bonn meetings and talks.

"The results are obvious," Foreign Minister H.-D. Genscher said on Monday evening in a brief conversation with PRAVDA correspondents at Petersberg, where the Soviet visitor was staying at the end of last week. It resulted in the signing of a "major" treaty. But the visit itself was also significant—it strengthened trust even more, not only between the leaders, but also between the peoples of our countries and gave our relations a genuinely long-term future.

It was a hard slog getting there. There are various ways of calculating the time spent over it. One could go back to the good old traditional ties between us and the Germans. One could go back to the 1970 Moscow Treaty, which was the first step on the path of overcoming the grim past. Another milestone was the Joint Statement, signed at top level last June. It is easy to see that many things in the new treaty are inspired by its bold ideas. When the process of German unity started out, the sides decided to define the parameters of future relations between the Soviet Union and a united Germany on a new, lasting treaty basis. That marked the birth of the Treaty on Good-Neighborliness, Partnership, and Cooperation, which would henceforth be a kind of political flagship for a number of other treaties and agreements between our countries, making up a system of qualitatively new relations.

In drawing a line under the past, the "major treaty" is suffused with a mutual pledge not to allow new military clashes either between us and the Germans or anywhere in Europe. The treaty articles are redolent of this. And although we and the Germans are only part of the all-European community, Soviet-German good-neighborliness and partnership are of indubitable significance for the prosperity of all the peoples and for the

building of a new Europe of peace and cooperation. This is a substantive result of our president's trip to the FRG.

We admit that some of our veterans and people of the older generation sometimes wonder whether Germany can be trusted. After all, our fingers have been burned once. However, it is not the thirties and it is not the forties and the situation is totally different both in Germany and in Europe. The Germans have undoubtedly drawn conclusions from the lessons of history. On the continent today there is no real military threat to anyone from anywhere. In fact, the interests of states and peoples are becoming increasingly intertwined with the ties of cooperation.

The mass of Germans has changed, too. These people have not only learned lessons from the tragedies of war, but has also recognized the advantages of such "weapons" as the celebrated "economic miracle" that was created by its peaceful labor.

It is equally significant that there has been a real change in the Germans' attitude toward our people. It is perhaps not the same throughout united Germany. But even in today's new federal laender, as V. Tirze, former leader of the East German social democrats and now deputy chairman of the Social Democratic Party, said in conversation recently, there is a large underlying trust of the Soviet Union and the majority supports the policy of perestroyka, wants to see it succeed, and is grateful for the support for the Germans' national aspirations. But if one is talking about the "old federal"—western—part of Germany, one encounters everywhere not just a good-neighborly, friendly attitude toward our people, but a human sympathy for our hardships and concerns, a wish to promote personally and politically and economically the success of the reforms process.

During the conversations between the President and the statesmen accompanying him and the leaders of the FRG government and parties explanations were given of the situation at the crucial stage of perestroyka and transition to the market. This work is obviously important, because the German side is drawing from the analysis conclusions that affect specific policies.

According to data cited in the local press, FRG services and commitments under various agreements, contracts, and accords total nearly 40 billion marks. This would have been impossible without the trust that has been established in recent years in our relations and is now enshrined in the signed agreement. People here appreciate what a difficult task the transition to the market is and what imbalances it could cause in the economy. Both government circles and the press paint a warts-and-all picture of our country's current economic situation and the dangers it poses. Which makes the German leaders' emphatic references to the well-known saying "a friend in need is a friend indeed" all the more significant. The results of the conversations and talks in Bonn instill the hope that the Germans will match their words with deeds.

Here is a bulletin from the federal chancellor's department: "Gorbachev was able to leave Germany with the feeling that it would help the Soviet Union in the particularly difficult winter months. Kohl will use all his authority in the EEC and the international community to ensure that intentions to help will turn into real action. If it does not work, Germany will supply the food to plug the main gaps in winter supplies. Moreover, the chancellor has promised to rapidly create under the auspices of the economics ministry a working group of economists and specialists to provide consultancy services during the USSR's transition to market structures."

The current problems do not obscure the fact that the Treaty on Good-Neighborliness, Partnership, and Cooperation is geared not only to the present, but also to the future of Soviet-German relations and international cooperation. Great significance is attached here to the discussion of international issues during the visit, particularly the situation in the Persian Gulf region. It revealed a basic coincidence of views on the need for a peaceful settlement of the crisis. At the same time, it was, as it were, the first top-level political consultation envisaged by the new treaty. The document is regarded as important because it ranges beyond the confines of bilateral issues and contacts. The "major treaty" is a cornerstone of all-European development, of the creation of a new system of cooperation and security in Europe. When we talked to Genscher, his French colleague R. Dumas was alongside him.

"We are working because we can build a peaceful Europe," he said in Russian during the conversation. "Our treaty with the Soviet Union is very interesting, useful, and important. But our treaty with Germany is also important. I believe that France, Germany, and the Soviet Union can now work together for the benefit of Europe. Next week the all-European summit meeting will take place in Paris. It will be a very important meeting."

"Indeed," the FRG foreign minister agreed with his colleague. "Both of these significant treaties have an all-European dimension."

The results of the USSR President's visit to Germany are a major contribution to wide-ranging all-European collaboration. This is a promising fact. It facilitates closer political, economic, and other cooperation between the Soviet Union and united Germany. The constructive and dynamic potential of Soviet-German relations, which is so important for us, for the Germans, and for the peaceful future of Europe as a whole, could be revealed even more fully within this framework.

Joint German Railcar Plant To Continue

PM0911113090 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Nov 90 Union Edition p 2

[Report by IZVESTIYA correspondent Ye. Korolev with commentary by V. Shatayev, chief of the USSR Ministry of Railways Main Passenger Directorate: "Different Track, Same Freightcars"]

[Text] Berlin—Railroad passenger cars manufactured at the "Schienenfahrzeuge" combine in what was the GDR are well known in our country. This enterprise has now become a joint-stock company called "Deutsche Wagonbau AG."

This firm recently set up a supervisory council with Otto Wolff von Amerongen, the well-known German industrialist and chairman of the Ost Committee of the German Economy, as its chairman. He said at a news conference that he sees the future of the firm in preserving and further developing business relations, above all with the Soviet Union and East European countries.

Current problems of funding, particularly in the USSR, do not, in his opinion, present an obstacle to future economic cooperation. Railcar building enterprises in what was the GDR must switch to the normal world practice of granting credit for a term of five to seven years for capital goods. The supervisory council chairman stressed that the Soviet trading partner should under no circumstances be put in a difficult position owing to shortage of transport systems of which it is in extreme need.

V. Shatayev, chief of the Ministry of Railways Main Passenger Directorate, comments on this report at IZVESTIYA's request:

[Shatayev] Our country has long and close ties with German railcar builders, which were not severed on German unification.

The USSR Gosplan [State Planning Committee] has allocated our ministry enough hard currency for 1991 to buy diesel locomotives and cars. The bulk of the money will be spent on the acquisition of 1,022 passenger cars. The appropriate contract will be signed with "Deutsche Wagonbau AG" after this decision is ratified by the USSR Council of Ministers.

This cooperation is especially important since our country still has no plant producing compartmentalized cars, sleeping cars, or restaurant cars.

Finland Welcomes Proposal on Nuclear-Free Baltic

LD1311075190 Moscow TASS in English 0727 GMT 13 Nov 90

[By TASS correspondent Viotto Leskinen]

[Text] Helsinki November 13 TASS—Finland welcomed the Soviet proposal to set up a nuclear free zone in the Baltic on Monday.

The proposal was made in October in a message to the Baltic nations, the United States, Great Britain and France.

In Monday's response, the Finnish Foreign Ministry said the move will help strengthen stability and trust in Europe.

Organisational measures concernning nuclear weapons deployed on the Baltic Sea coast would serve to strengthen the Baltic nuclear-free zone, the ministry said.

The implementation of the proposal to set up a nuclear-free zone in the Baltic region should go hand in hand with measures in areas surrounding northern Europe aimed to reduce or eliminate nuclear weapons, based in the area, which could be used against targets in the European north, the document said.

It is difficult to verify compliance with nuclear safety at sea, it said.

The reduction of tactical sea-based nuclear systems on the basis of unilateral measures taken by superpowers promotes stability, it said.

Finland believes that the system of agreements on a nuclear-free zone in the Baltic region should be based on a mutual understanding between coastal states in the region and on international monitoring over compliance of its no nuclear status, it said.

On this basis, Finland is prepared to discuss all proposals on the Baltic Sea positively, it said.

Plane Hijacked to Helsinki 15 Nov

LD1511070590 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0642 GMT 15 Nov 90

[By TASS correspondent Vojtto Leskinen]

[Text] Helsinki, 15 Nov (TASS)—An "Aeroflot" plane on a flight from Leningrad to Moscow with 66 passengers on board was seized this morning. The hijacker forced the crew to change course and land at the [Finnish] capital's Helsinki-Vanta airport.

The Soviet airliner landed here at 0530 local time. One and a half hours later the criminal gave himself up to the Finnish authorities and immediately asked for political asylum. All the passengers and six crewmembers are safe.

At a news conference held at the airport, representatives of the Finnish police have stated that the hijacker threatened to blow up the plane with plastic explosives and demanded that the crew change course for Stockholm. However, the plane landed in Helsinki.

The police have begun investigating the circumstances of the hijacking.

Finland Dispatches Surplus Potatoes to Karelia

PM1411123590 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Nov 90 Second Edition p 4

[Report by correspondent Yu. Kuznetsov: "Straight to the Counter?"]

[Text] Helsinki, 12 Nov—In the port of the Finnish city of Vaasa, potatoes are being loaded for Karelia—750

tonnes of tubers delivered to the harbor from the fields and from storehouses on nearby farms have been poured into the holds of a Soviet ship.

This is advantageous to the local population: It is a question of surpluses, and it is not known what would happen to them but for a foreign client. In this case deliveries are being made in accordance with an agreement between the Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the Council of Ministers of Soviet Karelia. The load is headed for Petrozavodsk. Another of our ships is expected to arrive in Vaasa in the next few days and will also take on a load of potatoes for Karelia.

True, local specialists point out that the loading method is somewhat strange: Potatoes are simply poured into the hold. This is the first occasion within my memory, S. Rusengren [name as transliterated], a local vegetable grower, remarked, that potatoes have been loaded in this way.

"What will happen when they are unloaded?" he asked. "Because when the potatoes are scooped up in a crane bucket, many tubers get damaged and they will no longer be fit for storage. Although to all appearances, the load will be sent not to storehouses but straight to stores."

Let us hope, as the saying goes, that that is what will happen.

Supreme Soviet

Deputies View Federal-Republic 'Legislative War'

LD1411122490 Moscow TASS in English 1205 GMT 14 Nov 90

[By TASS parliamentary correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Vladimir Isachenkov]

[Text] Moscow November 14 TASS—Deputies to the Supreme Soviet, who are attending their fourth session today after a recess, have radically changed the plan for parliament work, deciding to discuss the worsening situation in the country without delay.

The keeness of the situation manifested itself in parliament as well. Deputies' remarks were particularly sharp. The deputies are aware of the crisis of legislative power. Their comments focused on the fruitlessness of the work of the federal parliament, the decisions of which are blocked in republics.

Speakers pointed out that there is no sense in adopting new legal acts now that a "legislative war" is being fought between the federal and republican parliaments.

The progressing paralysis of power, including, as some of them believe, the power of President Mikhail Gorbachev, is giving rise to mounting concern among deputies.

As a result, deputies did not support the agenda suggested by the Soviet Parliament Presidium and insisted on an urgent discussion of the situation in the country, inviting the president, the Soviet government and republican leaders to attend. The plan was adopted, winning support from 362 out of the 378 deputies present.

During a brief break Ivan Laptev and Rafik Nishanov, chairmen of the parliamentary chambers, met President Gorbachev. Then Laptev said that a joint meeting of the parliamentary chambers on Friday would begin with the president's report on the situation in the country.

"We asked the president to describe the concept for the future union treaty and tell the deputies about the November 11 talks with Boris Yeltsin," Laptev said.

Later today the parliamentarians will hold a preliminary closed- door discussion of the situation in the country. It was decided that deputies would work in parliamentary committees and commissions on Thursday.

14 Nov Supreme Soviet Proceedings Detailed

LD1411222390

[Editorial Report] Moscow Television Service in Russian at 1840 GMT on 14 November begins carrying its scheduled "At the USSR Supreme Soviet Session" program consisting of recorded highlights of the 14 November session of the USSR Supreme Soviet in the Kremlin in Moscow.

During their break the deputies met their constituents and familiarized them with the state of affairs in the country. Now they must return to discussing the draft laws on the agenda, Laptev says. He recalls that Yeltsin expressed support for the Union and a new Union treaty, as have other republics.

At 1845 GMT, Laptev calls for deputies to register. There are 370 deputies registered and 81 are present.

An unidentified deputy then calls for deputies to stand and observe a minute's silence in honor of those killed in Dubossary. The same deputy says that the session should now discuss Moldovan events.

At 1848 GMT, Laptev brings up the first point on the agenda, the first reading of the draft law on foreign currency regulation. A deputy says that the agenda must be approved. Laptev outlines the agenda for the next two weeks and says that they should stick to it for the first two days and then make changes as required.

Another deputy says that the situation in the country is so bad that urgent measures are required. Meanwhile, the Supreme Soviet is adopting laws which are simply not being implemented. The session should discuss the situation in the country and nothing else. Laptev says this will be discussed on Friday.

At 1855 GMT, a deputy calls for a debate on the delimitation of functions between legislative organs and the Union treaty. Another deputy remarks that the laws they pass are not operating. The Supreme Soviet should react to what is happening in the country. Another deputy asks who is manipulating the session's agenda. Why are they discussing currency regulations when this is in effect being decided elsewhere?

At 1900 GMT, Deputy Kugultinov says that all Union and republican presidents should come to the session and decide things openly and not in smoke-filled rooms.

Next Deputy Petroshenko, in uniform, quotes MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI on the need for urgent action in the country. Then another deputy in uniform complains that he could not get into yesterday's meeting between Gorbachev and peoples deputies. The prestige of USSR peoples deputies counts for nothing outside these walls. Another deputy says that the deputies have no influence on real events even though they are the supreme elected body.

At 1908 GMT, Deputy Miloserdov says that Union republics are adopting their own laws, on curency regulation, for example, so there is no point in the deputies discussing it here. Another deputy says that none of the laws are being implemented; there is paralysis of power. Agreement must be reached on delimitation of powers with the republics.

Deputy Medvedev says that even at the rayon level there is a collapse of authority and nothing is getting done. The agenda should be altered; the situation in the country must be discussed.

Deputy Molotova says that the deputies bear some responsibility for what is happening in the country.

At 1916 GMT, Deputy Budilno proposes that first and foremost the sociopolitical and economic situation in the country should be discussed. In her own constitency, there is "famine." All food is sold only on ration cards. A vote should be taken on whether economic issues should be put on the agenda.

Next Deputy Alksnis, in uniform, says: "Respected colleagues, the situation in the country changes every day. We constantly lag behind. What we do here has no relation to the processes which are occurring in the country. Yesterday, a meeting took place between the USSR president and servicemen who are deputies. Unfortunately, the mass media are not giving you objective information about this meeting. And a terrible thing happened. Yesterday the USSR president was left without any Armed Forces. And if before this people were saying that the conservative [word indistinct] was coming out against the policies of perestroyka, yesterday it happened, a meeting took place, a dialogue took place between a blind man and a deaf man. The president could give no answer to the representatives of the Army. This was a dreadful—at least for me this was a dreadful picture—and for this reason I felt once again that the situation, including that within the Armed Forces, is unpredictable.

"And what the people are being intimidated by the threat of military coups, I would say no, the Army will not act against its own people. But the Army has now been brought to the limit. It has been brought to the limit by the Estonian nationalists, nationalists in the Western Ukraine, in Georgia. When officers are being beaten up, when the rights of children are being violated, people will be compelled to protect their children. This has to be said.

"Therefore, if we do not take measures of some kind now, people will go out into the streets with weapons. And this will not be any military coup, people will be protecting their human rights. I would like you to understand this correctly. When I am concerned about my children, when as of 1 January in order for my children to study, to study in a Latvian school, I will have to pay 1,500 rubles because they are the children of occupiers, what is this? Is this democracy? Where is the democracy here? And for this reason I am coming out in favor of the issue of the situation in the country being placed on the agenda without delay."

At 1920 GMT, a deputy complains that neither Silayev nor Laptev were invited to the Gorbachev meeting with servicemen yesterday.

Another deputy says that a commission should be set up to discuss the status of the Supreme Soviet as the top legislative body since at present the structures of power are not clearly demarcated.

At 1924 GMT, a deputy in uniform says with reference to Alksnis' speech that he wants minutes of yesterday's meeting between Gorbachev and servicemen to be published. The economic situation should be put on the agenda. Another deputy says that the economic situation should be put on the agenda. Lukyanov and Ryzhkov should be invited to the discussion. A deputy expresses his views on how the economic situation should be tackled. He comments about the bad situation in shops.

At 1930 GMT, a deputy complains that the presidium is continually undermining the activities of the Supreme Soviet by amending its decisions. He urges the Supreme Soviet to reach a decision as to what it wishes to achieve.

Deputy Nikolskiy then complains that the USSR Supreme Soviet deputies have not been properly informed about the Gorbachev-Yeltsin meeting. Nikolskiy has been to Leningrad recently: There is no bread in Leningrad, he says. It should not be underestimated that the situation in the country is catastrophic, and both the economic situation and the government issue should be put on the agenda.

At 1934 GMT, a deputy says that congress agenda should now be defined. Work on it should continue in committees rather than now in the Supreme Soviet hall.

Another deputy says that it is necessary to discuss delimitation of functions of the legislative and executive bodies. He says that all people's deputies—those of the republics too—and the president should take part in the discussion of the economic situation on Friday morning. Another deputy says that the economic situation should be discussed in commissions.

At 1940 GMT, a deputy expresses concern that when the issue of the situation in the Army is discussed proposals should be accepted from Army people themselves.

At 1942 GMT, Deputy Khabybulin expresses concerned that living standards should not fall any further. He supports the fact that the situation in the country should be put on the Supreme Soviet agenda. A deputy proposes closing the debates and taking a vote on the agenda that has just been discussed.

Another deputy says that an emergency congress should be convened now. There is no point in passing any laws at present since the ones that do exist are not being implemented, he says.

At 1946 GMT, Nishanov says that it is necessary to exchange views on how the country can be taken out of the economic impasse in which it finds itself. He says that he has had contacts with leaders of republics and areas who have informed him about the pathetic situation in their respective areas. He proposes that the schedule outlined should now be confirmed. On Friday, discussion should be held of the economic situation and the convening of the Congress of People's Deputies. The Union treaty should be discussed by the Supreme Soviet

next, and the debates should be preceded by a report on the subject by Gorbachev. He says that break should now be announced.

A deputy suggests that Supreme Soviet sessions should be televised fully without being edited and another deputy adds that they should be relayed during daytime.

At 1952 GMT, a deputy says that decisions should be made independently by the Supreme Soviet without delegating any of its authority to the president. Today the issues of delimitation of functions should be discussed. Another deputy says that he does not want to discuss currency regulation today.

At 1955 GMT, a deputy says that there is a confusion of terms at the session. A Union treaty is being drawn up not by the Presidential Council but by the republics. He further explains the procedure for drawing up the Union treaty.

Laptev then sums up proposals for the schedule of the Supreme Soviet's work for the next few days. A deputy says that the economic situation should be discussed on Friday.

A number of deputies question Laptev on details of the agenda for the next few days. Laptev wants the decision on the agenda to be made now. Laptev says that indeed many deputies are right that problems in the country are brought about by the fact that there are no proper laws, and that the ones that do exist are not in operation. He then announces a 45-minute break in proceedings.

At 2006 GMT, the studio announcer says: "After the break, the chairman informed deputies that the leaders of the chambers have been in touch with the country's president and discussed with him the issues raised by the deputies. The plenary sitting of the chambers—at which Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev is to give a report on the situation in the country and, together with this, is to throw light on the concept of the future Union treaty and on the essence of his meeting with Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin—is to take place on Friday, 16 November at 1000 [0700 GMT]. Moreover, the higher leaders of all facilities in the federation and of the USSR Government will participate.

"After a short discussion, deputies adopted a number of decisions. The main ones concerned the plenary session on Friday and were virtually unanimously adopted. It has been decided to devote tomorrow to preparations for this sitting, again in committees and commissions. Deputies have decided to declare today's evening session—which has virtually already started the discussion on the situation in the country—closed."

Poltical & Social

Red Square Gunman Intended To Kill Gorbachev

LD1511084890 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0805 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Moscow, 15 Nov (TASS)—Aleksandr Shmonov, the man who fired shots during the festive demonstration in Red Square in Moscow on 7 November, attempted to aim his shots at Mikhail Gorbachev, the USSR president. This has become known during the investigation conducted by the USSR KGB into this affair.

In an interview given to GLASNOST paper, Colonel Petr Sokolov, investigator in charge of cases of special importance in the investigations department of the USSR KGB, stated that during a search of Shmonov, a note was found in his pocket, prepared in case he died during his attempt. In the note he clearly set out his criminal intentions toward the USSR president. According to the statement given by the terrorist, he had been preparing to carry out this act for more than two years.

During this time he acquired an imported gun and trained in rapid fire techniques. Apart from that, since last spring Shmonov produced and distributed leaflets and letters that threatened the leader of the Soviet state.

The KGB investigator's view is that the consequences of the terrorist act could have been very serious. When the act was carried out Shmonov was only 46 meters from the rostrum of the Mausoleum and the gun had two 16-mm shells inside. Andrey Mylnikov, the militia sergeant who disarmed Shmonov in Red Square, stated that during Shmonov's preliminary questioning the terrorist, replying to a question, said: "I wanted to kill Gorbachev."

Shmonov is currently being held in a solidarity confinement and investigations cell of the USSR KGB. His actions are defined as "an attempt to carry out a terrorist act."

Yeltsin Aide Says Oil Reserves 'Almost Exhausted'

AU1411180290 Paris AFP in English 1739 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Amsterdam, Nov 14 (AFP) — Soviet oil sources will run dry by the end of the century if current pumping levels are maintained, a close aide to Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin said here Wednesday [14 November].

"It was not for nothing that the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan," but because Moscow "wanted access to the Gulf", said Mikhail Poltoranin, Russian minister for the press and former editor of the Communist Party daily PRAVDA.

"The Soviet oil reserves are almost exhausted," he said.

Mr. Poltoranin criticized past Soviet oil policy of exploiting reserves near the surface "any old how" without regard to damage caused to reserves lying deeper.

"We exploited the 20 per cent of oil fields that were of easiest access, and I wonder if the remainder can still be used," Mr. Poltoranin said at a press conference.

The minister, who was in the Netherlands on a private visit, also called on Western investors to help create independent newspapers, television and radio stations in the Soviet Union.

Official Promises No 'Hungry Winter' in Moscow

LD1411122890 Moscow World Service in Russian 1030 GMT 14 Nov 90

[From the "Soviet Chronicle" feature of the "Soviet Union Day by Day" program; report attributed to INTERFAX]

[Text] The population of Moscow is not threatened by a hungry winter. This soothing statement was made by Vladimir Kornoukhov, deputy chairman of the city soviet. He gave an interview in connection with speculation that rationing of food products will be introduced in the capital. This has led to panic buying of literally everything.

Vladimir Kornoukhov stated that the government will fully provide the capital with foodstuffs all throughout 1991. He did not deny, however, that the city authorities will have to introduce quotas on the distribution of foodstuffs in one form or another.

TV, Radio Chief Moved to Press Committee

LD1411192490 Moscow TASS in English 1833 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Moscow November 14 TASS—President Gorbachev today appointed Mikhail Nenashev, former head of the Soviet Committee on Telvision and Radio, chairman of the Soviet Committee on the Press.

In accordance with the enforcement of the Soviet law "On the Press and Other Mass Media" and the need to ensure Soviet citizens' rights to get and disseminate information, broader rights for publishing houses and polygraphic enterprise and the differentiation of functions between central and local authorities, it is deemed necessary to radically reorganise the State Committee on the Press, Gorbachev's decree says.

Nenashev has been given a two week deadline to submit proposals on ways to reform current state media structures to the Soviet Government.

The decree also said that in new economic conditions the mass media needed state support and economic and legal protection.

TASS Chief To Head Radio and TV

LD1411180390 Moscow TASS in English 1748 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Moscow November 14 TASS—Leonid Kravchenko has been moved from his job as chief of the Soviet news agency TASS to head the USSR State Committee for Television and Radio.

The presidential decree made public today entrusts Kravchenko with submitting to the Soviet Government, within two weeks, proposals for the reorganisation of the present committee. Structural changes are envisaged to separate television and radio broadcasting, and to raise the level of activity of specialised associations and directorates of television and radio channels.

Nenashev Views Television 'Monopoly'

LD1411001190 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Report by correspondent N. Kvashenkina, including recorded remarks by Mikhail Fedorovich Nenashev, chairman of the State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting (Gosteleradio) at a news confernce in Moscow on 13 November; from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] A news conference by Comrade Nenashev, chairman of the USSR's Gosteleradio, took place today at the State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting.

[Kvashenkina] Speaking before those assembled, Comrade Nenashev noted that television and radio, called on to reflect the complex processes that are taking place in our country, are today experiencing criticism from all sides. The main source of this dissatisfaction stems from the general discontent which exists today in society. Unfortunately, it is precisely the mass news media that are forced to act out the role of the self-same messengers who carry bad news. However, the chairman of Gosteleradio stressed that television employees are far from being irreproachable. At times they don't reach objectivity in appraising complex social processes, tolerance, and loyalty to various points of view. But one of the objective reasons is the existing structure of Central Television and the mechanisms for managing it—which, under the new complicated conditions, turn out to be insufficiently capable of ideas.

[Nenashev] What needs to be done? It seems to us first and foremost that we need to give up the existing monopoly over all television channels—that same monopoly that we once talked about, that inevitably negates the possibility of an alternative, and gives rise to a creative monopoly as a whole in television and radio. Changing the structure of managing central television and central radio braodcasting boils down to a radical democratization and specialization of television and radio channels. Each of the central television channels,

according to our proposals and decisions of the collegium, will obtain the necessary creative and commercial independence, and a definitive professional thematic direction and specialization, in accordance with constituent elements and concepts which it determines for itself.

[Kvashenkina] At the end of the news conference, Comrade Nenashev answered numerous questions from the journalists. A detailed account of the news conference will be broadcast in the near future. Fuller details to come.

Kalugin-Ryzhkov Case To Continue

LD1411172690 Moscow TASS in English 1713 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Moscow November 14 TASS—The presidium of the Russian Federation Supreme Court today rejected a protest of the Soviet procurator in the case of ex-KGB General Oleg Kalugin. The procurator had objected to court rulings that Kalugin's complaints against Soviet Prime Minister Nikolay Ryzhkov could be heard.

The procurator demanded that the hearing of the case be halted. According to the procurator's office, Kalugin can appeal only to the Soviet Parliament, which has authority over the government.

The presidium of the Russian Federation Supreme Court had to decide whether a Soviet citizen has the right to object to a prime minister's actions and take him to court.

According to the IZVESTIYA newspaper, open hearings were held in the presidium of the Russian Federation Supreme Court for half an hour and were followed by a five-minute closed session. After that, Kalugin's representative Boris Kuznetsov was told that the protest by a deputy procurator-general had been rejected. Consequently, the hearing of the Kalugin-Ryzhkov case will continue.

The court has yet to establish how the resolution stripping Kalugin of general's rank appeared. The dossier contains official reports from 12 ministers who claim that the Council of Ministers did not meet on June 29. The former general accuses the Soviet prime minister of stripping him of his rank and passing off his own decision as the decision of a collective body.

Business Newspaper for Entrepreneurs Launched

LD1411130690 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2230 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Summary] Recently the scientific and industrial cooperative association Fitter published the first issue of DELO [BUSINESS] newspaper for entrepreneurs. The newspaper is to become a guide in the labyrinth of new economic relations.

New Weekly Publication Launched

LD1311233590 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2030 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Summary] The second issue of the DELOVAYA ZHENSHCHINA weekly is on sale today. This new independent edition is organized by former NEDELYA correspondent (Irina Kochergina).

'Incompetence' Blamed for Train Crash With Bus

PM1411151590 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Report by E. Erkomayshvili; from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] We now want to report the details of a traffic accident in Sverdlovsk 10 November.

[Erkomayshvili] I am holding photographs taken by State Automobile Inspection personnel at the scene of the tragedy. [video show photographs of crash] At a railroad crossing a bus was first raked by an electric train and then finished off by an oncoming freight train. To date there are 16 dead, 12 injured, and four were unhurt. You were there during the first half-hour after the accident. Rumor has it that the barrier was defective. Is that true?

[V.S. Ryamov, deputy chief of a Sverdlovsk Oblast Soviet Executive Committee Internal Affairs Administration State Automobile Inspection Directorate] Yes, the barrier was defective. That is, it was damaged 1 November; on 2 November the repair services isolated the railroad, and it was not operational prior to 10 November, the time of the accident. This constitutes a most flagrant violation of all manner of normative documents in respect of traffic regulations and the operation of railroad crossings. Nor should the bus driver be relieved of responsibility; he should have seen that it was safe to cross and only then begun to move his bus across.

[Erkomayshvili] So three tragedies in a short period—the air disaster, the explosion, and now this accident. Despite the fact that they were all different, they share common factors: professional incompetence, lack of discipline, and disregard of regulations. Can we really not stop, can we really allow this to be the style of our work?

Economic

State Price Committee Chairman on Freeing Prices

LD1411210290 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 14 Nov 90

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Those who watched the earlier edition of Vremya know that the USSR State Committee on Prices has announced that from 15 November the statute on the

mechanism for forming negotiated free prices for consumer goods in 1990-91 comes into force. Here is an interview with Vyacheslav Konstantinovich Senchagov, chairman of the State Committee on Prices.

[Senchagov] Esteemed viewers, the government has instructed me to make a report on the recently adopted decision on changes in negotiated free prices of nonessential consumer goods. Of course, you are interested in the question of what this latest fuss in the administrative system may be. I must say, that the price-forming mechanism is really changing, it is changing in principle. Prices will not be set from above, but will be established as a result of a dialogue between the producer, the consumer, and trade.

Of course, you are interested in the question of which goods may be governed by free prices. You know, this is taking place within the framework of the program of the main guidlines of the transfer to the market. And the goods, I have already said, are non-essential, prestigious, imported goods, but to be more specific I can name a few: articles of jewelery, fur products for adults—for children, they remain for the time being in state hands—carpets and carpet articles, articles of china and pottery of high artistic value, crystal articles, technically complex high-class radio-electronic goods, certain high quality furniture suites, a number of imported goods, car spare parts. I stress: only spare parts, not car prices. And a small group of foodstuffs, only delicatessen, fish products, and certain kinds of meat products, i.e. veal, lamb and, so to speak, certain other such goods. And it is possible to say here that whiskey, gin and American cigarettes are included. Vodka and cognac are not affected.

So, what are we counting on, what is the government counting on? It is counting on there nevertheless being less speculation, that the market will normalize, that finally we will gradually get rid of queues. What does the government fear, what is it afraid of? The egoism of the producer who can dictate high prices. For this reason, the government considers it necessary to slightly limit trade mark-ups to 20-30 percent. That is the first thing. And second, if the producer reduces volume of production, the government must have the right—and it will exercise this right—to revoke the decision on negotiated prices.

Ukrainian Coupon Rationing Problems Reported

914F0040A Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Nov 90 Union Edition p 2

[Article by S. Tsikora: "The Ukraine: 'Consumer Booklets' Are Introduced"]

[Text] Kiev—**So-called "Consumer Booklets," containing coupons for one ruble and more and giving the right to purchase goods, have been introduced over the entire territory of the Ukraine. The coupons are accepted along with money when paying for purchases.**

In the morning I visited a number of the city's large stores, and I can testify that goods that the residents of Kiev have not seen for a long time have already appeared on the shelves of some of them. Cheese, sausage, pork, chicken, duck, all types of cereals, smoked fish.... In the department stores—high-quality china, clothing, footwear, electric appliances.... People crowd up to the shelves, but not all of them can buy. The typesetters did not supply the republic with the necessary quantity of "Consumer Booklets," and there is not much to buy using common money without them.

The lack of preparation for such a serious innovation as the introduction of a rationing system to protect the market and the interests of the republic forced a number of people's deputies to raise the issue at the Ukrainian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet of postponing the date the system was supposed to go into effect. But the government convinced parliament's deputies of the need to introduce the "Consumer Booklets" immediately. It was reported that consumer goods worth many billions of rubles have already been taken out of the Ukraine this year.

Right now it is very difficult for the employees of the soviet executive committees, who must decide all the specific questions connected with the issuance of the coupons. How should they be provided to pensioners who do not receive their money on the first but rather, for example, on the 20th? How can a family be fed if the parents receive their wage and the coupons this same way, 10-15 days apart? What will happen to people who live in the Ukraine and work in other republics?

There are more questions than answers. For the time being the Kiev Soviet Executive Committee has permitted sale of bread, milk, children's food cooked in milk, ice cream, greens, and vegetables (except potatoes) without coupons.

Criminal Proceedings Follow Pollution Incident

PM1411141990 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1330 GMT 13 Nov 90

[From the "Television News Service" newscast: Report by A. Zhuk, V. Malchikov]

[Text] [Announcer] The day before yesterday we reported on an ecological drama at Novopolotsk which has had repercussions in a Baltic republic. Here is a reportage from Belorussia.

[Reporter] The accident which happened at the Polimer Production Association is, alas, not a chance ocurrence but an unfortunate logical development resulting from disruptions of the technological process, crude violations of production and labor discipline, and flaws in environmental protection in Novopolotsk and around this Belorussian city. This has led to the discharge of 15 cubic meters of poison into the Zapadnaya Dvina river which flows into the Daugava which in turn flows through Latvian territory into the Baltic Sea.

[V. Kazakhov, "Polimer" Production Association production manager] The main reason for the discharge, in my opinion, is violation of labor discipline on the part of our labor collectives during these stressful, difficult times. Working with people is becoming very difficult. What we need are day-to-day efforts to retool and introduce high-tech facilities. This, I hope, will rule out violations of this kind in the future. This incident must serve as a warning to us. We must take all the steps necessary to forestall anything like this happening again.

[Announcer] Our correspondent reports that criminal proceedings have been instituted in connection with the discharge of poison into the river.

October Rail Performance Figures Issued

914H0039A Moscow GUDOK in Russian
4 Nov 90 p 1

[Article based on materials of the Ministry of Railways Statistics Administration: "An October Without Changes"]

[Text] During the past month arrears in the dispatch of cargo increased on the whole throughout the network by another 6.3 million tonnes. However in a number of instances a tendency was observed toward reducing the distance we are behind last year's pace.

Since the beginning of the year the plan for dispatches has not been fulfilled by 17.6 million tonnes. The greatest shortfall has occurred in a number of goods for the state order: Almost 21 million tonnes of coal, 13.6 million tonnes of chemical and mineral fertilizers, 12.7 million tonnes of timber and lumber, and 10.5 million tonnes of ore. At the same time, transportation of goods for local planning is being carried out at a faster pace. A total of more than 33 million tonnes (2.7 percent) for all items was transported over and above the plan.

Half of the railroads met the 10-month plan for freightage. The Belorussian, North Caucasus, Krasnoyarsk, and Lvov Railroads made the greatest contribution to the general results, each carrying about 2 million tonnes of national economic production over and above the plan.

At the same time, the shortfall on the Donetsk Railroad was 9.8 million tonnes, on the Far Eastern Railroad 5.9 million tonnes, on the Azerbaijan Railroad 3.5 million tonnes, and on the South Urals Railroad 3 million tonnes.

No improvement was noted in the use of the wagon and locomotive fleet. Turnaround of wagons was slowed by 2.6 hours. The weight of a loaded train decreased by 34 tonnes.

All this has had an effect on the economic situation of the sector. Labor productivity of the workers involved in transportation decreased by 4.9 percent against the same period last year. Transportation costs increased by 3.6 percent over the plan.

Minister Comments on Performance

914H0039B Moscow GUDOK in Russian
7 Nov 90 p 1

[Report from the Ministry of Railways: "Do Not Slack Off"]

[Text] At a teleconference on the eve of the Great October Socialist Revolution holiday, Minister N. Konarev congratulated the collectives and briefly talked about the results of the sector's operations over the 10 months. The plan was not fulfilled inasmuch as the customers presented less cargo for shipment and in a number of places the railroads were not supplied with wagons. Revenues are decreasing, overstocks of tangible assets are especially not being reduced, and profits over and above the plan are quite modest—only 37 million rubles [R].

The number of workers grew this year by 44,800 workers, and the average pay for the sector was R309.5; for managerial positions it was even greater.

Speaking about the difficult food situation in the country, the minister said that the cause was the absence of sugar on store shelves. Those who want to blame the railways should know that producers are holding back goods. They should also note that the Ministry of Railways significantly overfulfilled the plan for deliveries of grain and has already transported 800,000 tonnes of imported potatoes.

Other important problems were also mentioned at the teleconference. At present the railroads are allotting almost one-fourth of their profits to the budgets of the Union republics and have the right to count on transportation aid from them. It is important to increase the customers' responsibility for the quick unloading of wagons, especially during the holidays.

Abalkin on Difficulties of Market Transition

LD1411113290

[Editorial Report] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1843 GMT on 13 November broadcasts a 14-minute interview with Leonid Ivanovitch Abalkin, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, by Valeriy Kosa on the compatibility of socialism and the market economy.

Abalkin sees the market economy as not taking off because of the failure to understand it properly, increasing arguments, and a lack of action. The people must overcome their distrust of it although they will have to face difficulties, because, currently being on the brink of chaos, "without a transition to the market the country has no future".

On the need to revive entrepreneural spirit, Abalkin says that at first he thought it would take years, but his own observations have revealed that entrepreneurs have come to the surface in the cooperative sector, the newly

created commercial banks, and to a considerable extent both in state and lease-hold industrial enterprises.

Abalkin continues by discussing the need for nationwide agreement if measures are to be implemented and the need for leaders to put the general good before that of individual interests.

In reply to a question on "a crisis of power", Abalkin replies, "I would call that the teething problems of democracy. It is possible that it is inevitable that one should experience this. It is possible that the long drawing out of democratic renewal, the absence of a deep tradition of democracy in the country—we did not have it either before the October Revolution nor can we boast particularly about success in this matter after it—are accompanied by such teething problems of democracy, self-assertion, and so forth. But at some time after that youthful turning point the age of maturing begins. I would like this process to go ahead at an accelerated rate. I do not see anything apart from its leaders and heads, including newcomers to the management and leadershp of the local soviets, having at last begun to put reason, political calculation, and not emotions in the forefront. They have acquited a sense of responsibility for subsequent steps and the consequences of the measures undertaken. They understand that now we ourselves are the power responsible for the fate of history. Moreover, we want to find a way out of the situation. We do not want to sacrifice the democracy already won in so doing, in administering order and discipline by harsh methods that might cast us back decades and crush democratic freedom."

Abalkin concludes by appealing to the people to tackle the crisis jointly, to stop searching for enemies such as members of cooperatives and of other nations, and to summon up worthy and humane feelings for agreement, reason, calm, and work.

Vegetables Perish on Ships Awaiting Unloading

914F0039B Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
6 Nov 90 Union Edition p 1

[Article by B. Reznik: "Abundance at the Anchorage, But in the Stores?.."]

[Text] Magadan—In the stores of Magadan a very scanty assortment of vegetables is for sale. The oblast has many populated centers where they cannot be purchased at all.

In the meantime ships with vegetables have been standing at the anchorage of the Magadan sea port for two weeks without being unloaded. However, after such a long bumpy ride on the waves, the vegetables are more suitable as fodder for livestock than as food for people.

"We sounded the alarm when it took 11 days to unload the diesel ship Suleyman Stalskiy, and then the refrigerator ships Khydozhnik Kustodiyev and Khudozhnik Fedorovskiy weighed anchor right beside it," said A. Lugovets, chief of the ports department of the Far Eastern Sea Line. "At the very least, the food is losing its appearance, food products that are in the greatest demand are perishing, and the steamship line is incurring losses because of the ships standing idle."

At the Nakhodka port the diesel ships Krasnoyarskiy Komsomolets, Komsomol Artema, Kolya Myagotin, and Ovanes Tumanyan are waiting. Some are taking on vegetables and others are preparing to receive vegetables in their holds in order to supply the distant northern oblast with the vitamin-filled produce before the cold sets in. But do the residents of Magadan want to make an effort to organize a normal reception of that cargo, which would probably not be refused in any other oblast? So it is easy to understand the ultimatum-like tone of the telegram sent by G. Pikus, acting chief of the Far Eastern Sea Line, to the leaders of Magadan Oblast. "We consider it necessary to make it known to the oblast soviet executive committee and to the public that if in the course of two days the pace of unloading vegetables from ships does not increase to 2,000 tonnes per day, the steamship line will reduce the tonnage of cargo allotted for vegetables and meat to Magadan."

Yes even meat, which does not exist at all in the oblast's stores, is being unloaded the same way as the vegetables here. For example, they have spent 10 days unloading meat from the diesel ship Larisa Reysner.

Moscow Official Discusses Vegetable Shortages

914F0039A Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
5 Nov 90 Second Edition p 3

[Interview with O. Virichev, chief of the main directorate of the fruit and vegetable industry for Moscow Oblast, by PRAVDA correspondent Yu. Kazmin in Moscow; date not given: "Will There Be Vegetables in the Store?"—first paragraph is PRAVDA introduction]

[Text] A correspondent from PRAVDA posed the question headlining this article to O. Virichev, chief of the main directorate of the fruit and vegetable industry for Moscow Oblast. We were induced to do this interview when the joint staff of the "Harvest and Storage 1990" headquarters sent an appeal to the people's deputies of Moscow which said that fields of cabbage and carrots are still unharvested around Moscow. The appeal said that the "deputies have demonstratively distanced themselves from the leadership of the harvest operations."

[Virichev] In the first place, that is putting it too strongly. And in the second place, such offensive words do not apply to all the deputies. Many of them not only helped in the organization of the harvest but themselves took part in agricultural operations. However, I also understand the anger of those who wrote this appeal: Unharvested cabbages, carrots, and other vegetables still remain in the fields. At the same time I wish to stress that one of the reasons for the delay is the lack of organization on the part of the majority of new rayispolkoms [rayon soviet executive committees].

[Kazmin] Could you be more specific?

[Virichev] For example, Kuntsevskiy, Krasnopresnenskiy, Leningradskiy, and Oktyabrskiy fruit and vegetable associations contributed the very lowest volumes of vegetable production to the winter reserves. And this is no accident—it is precisely in these rayons that the executive committees and the deputies have, from the very beginning of the harvest, completely refused to help the villages. Then when they realized that the rayons might be left with empty vegetable shelves and tried to raise labor collectives, the rains began and the opportunity was lost. You must not play games with the harvest. Losses in the fields result not only in empty shelves but also in the wasted labor of the peasant and in loss of production.

On the other hand, the farms of Moscow Oblast, meeting with such attitudes, did less to fulfill their obligations to the capital. We have instances where the produce that was harvested and designated for Moscow was sent outside the bounds of the capital region, even though Muscovites and servicemen of the Moscow district helped harvest it.

[Kazmin] Are there any rayons in Moscow which have succeeded in filling the warehouse with vegetable produce in sufficient quantity?

[Virichev] Yes, there are. They are those rayons that interacted closely with the villagers right from the start of the harvest campaign. Primarily they are Gagarinskiy and Volgogradskiy Rayons and the city of Zelenograd. With the exception of potatoes, which still continue to come in, they have fulfilled everything that was planned. Cabbage, beets, carrots, onions, and other vegetables were received in sufficient quantity.

[Kazmin] Incidentally, about the potatoes. They have been most difficult for village workers and those who came out to help them. How is the storage of potatoes for the winter reserves?

[Virichev] The weather conditions have had a disastrous effect on the storage of potatoes. I myself have seen these fields repeatedly. Water had so flooded the region around Moscow that they looked more like rice paddies. And despite the fact that it has taken tremendous effort to wrest these potatoes from the "mud soup," it will not be easy to preserve them until the new harvest. And we did not even receive enough of these potatoes. Such oblasts as Ryazan, Tula, and Smolensk have quit delivering them, even though they have the resources. The Moscow Soviet has had to appeal to the USSR government for aid. The government met the capital half way, and now potatoes from Germany and Poland are going into the storehouses. This permits us to have sufficient resources until the new harvest. So, on the eve of the holiday of the Great October Revolution I would like to cheer up native Muscovites with at least this pleasant news: There will be potatoes and vegetables in Moscow!

Goskomstat Surveys Opinions on Market

914A0100A Moscow PRAVITELSTVENNYY VESTNIK in Russian No 44, Oct 90 p 5

[Article by S. Shashnov, head of the USSR State Committee for Statistics Sociological Survey Bureau: "Are We Ready for the Changes?"]

[Text] Having polled approximately 15,000 citizens in all regions of the country, the USSR State Committee for Statistics [Goskomstat] Sociological Survey Bureau has together with the republic statistical authorities analyzed their attitude toward the development of the new forms of economic management and ownership. This is what the poll revealed.

People have a wholly positive view of individual labor activity—its development is supported by seven out of 10 of those polled. Leasing, by six, private farms and joint ventures, by four out of 10. More guarded were the opinions concerning joint-stock enterprises and free economic zones—three out of 10 were in favor, one out of 10 against, and the rest undecided. Cooperatives and enterprises belonging to private individuals have somewhat fewer supporters—only one out of every three—and those rejecting them constitute approximately four out of 10. Enterprises that are wholly foreign-owned have the most opponents—one out of every two—and only one out of 10 persons supports them.

Key aspects of the transition to the market affecting the interests of the majority of people—the privatization of state-owned enterprises, the appearance of new sources of income, and the transition to a free pricing mechanism—evoked very ambivalent opinions. The mass consciousness has the most positive view of the new sources of income—half of those polled were not averse to obtaining such, having invested money in the development of production (stocks, securities). Little more than 10 percent are opposed to such earnings, the rest found it hard to say. This phrase, "I find it hard to say," incidentally, is encountered in polls quite often, testifying, in our view, both to an ignorance of the mechanism of market relations and people's sociopsychological unpreparedness for work under the new conditions.

Many people believe that a proper market is impossible without the sale of land and the means of production. The sale of land into private ownership is supported by slightly more than half the citizens. But there are many who object also—one out of every four. Considerably fewer respondents agree with the sale of state-owned enterprises to private individuals. Only one out of three persons believes that it is necessary to accede to this upon privatization, and four out of 10 are opposed. One out of every two persons has a negative attitude here toward the hiring of employees by private owners.

Understandably, such a position largely depends on people's actual possibilities. Almost one out of every two persons would like to acquire land, but one out of every four observed that such an opportunity was lacking.

People's unpreparedness for the market is also indicated to a certain extent by their attitude toward free prices and differentiated income. Only one-fourth of those polled took a positive view of the free formation of market prices for food, merchandise and services based on supply and demand. One out of every two persons was opposed. Four out of 10 persons have a negative view of the probable considerable income differentiation.

Four out of 10 participants in the poll are also opposed to the appearance of a manpower market and labor exchange. In an absolute majority of those polled the possibility of the appearance of unemployment evokes a negative evaluation—only one out of 10 persons allows of this phenomenon. Four out of 10 object to the legalization of the shadow economy, but... one out of five considers this perfectly possible.

In a word, a majority of citizens currently prefers stability and confidence in the future to other alternatives. More than half of those polled agree to low earnings as long as they are firm and there is assurance as to the future. One out of four agrees with good earnings, even without particular safeguards for the future, and only two out of 10 are prepared today even to have their own business and run it at their own risk.

This trend can be seen also in the employees' responses concerning preferred versions of the development of their enterprises. Four out of 10 employees of state-owned enterprises deem it most expedient to leave them as they are, their having been accorded more independence. Little more than 10 percent are for their transfer without compensation to the work force. Less than 10 percent are for the leasing, sale to private individuals, and share-capitalization of the enterprises or other forms. One out of every two collective farm members and state farm workers supports the preservation of this form of ownership, two out of 10, the leasing of the land, and approximately as many would like to obtain their portion and work independently.

Almost one out of three wished to be the owner or co-owner of an enterprise and store and have his own business, and four out of 10 do not express such a desire but believe that it will happen nonetheless.

Despite the doubts and indecision, the present situation in the country is to practically nobody's liking—people recognize the need for change. A majority of those polled here—six out of 10—are prepared even for a temporary deterioration in their material situation provided that life gets considerably better in the future. Whether they are prepared to wait long is another matter.

October Economic Figures Reviewed

PM1511144390 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Nov 90 Union Edition p 1

[Article by V. Romanyuk under the rubric "Statistics and Our Commentary": "In October Without Changes"]

[Text] The collapse of economic relations continued in October. Over the past 10 months there has been a shortfall of 12.8 billion rubles [R] in deliveries of industrial output to consumers under contract and that includes a figure of R1.7 billion in October.

For industry as a whole the contract commitments were fulfilled 98 percent. Three complexes—the fuel and energy, machine building, and agro-industrial complexes—somewhat exceeded that level. But the chemical and timber complex again made a mess of deliveries, fulfilling commitments only 96.7 percent, while the situation in light industry is scarcely better—97.5 percent; in the coal industry it is 97.8 percent; in the electrical equipment industry, 96.8 percent; in the timber industry, 95.7 percent; in the petrochemical industry, 96.7 percent; and in the fish industry 97.4 percent.

In October 1990 there was a [working] day more than in 1989, V. Tolkushkin, deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Statistics, explained. This is the last "gift" in the working calendar this year. But we did not take the best advantage of it: We again have to note a decline in the volume of industrial production, not a very substantial one it is true—0.2 percent (0.8 percent for the 10 months).

But what kind of average statistical figures are they? In the fuel and energy complex both in October and on the basis of the results for that part of the year which has elapsed as a whole, there has been an increase in gas extraction while, it is true, there has been a reduction in coal and oil extraction. The depletion of a number of old deposits and also the belated commissioning of new ones, the difficulties with material and technical supplies and transport—those are the main reasons for the decline in the oil yield. In the metallurgical complex an even greater reduction in the production of finished rolled metal and steel pipes was allowed in October. Deliveries of coking coal and scrap metal deteriorated and many enterprises are working virtually from hand to mouth.

In the chemical and timber complex disproportions have intensified considerably in interrelated production facilities. The production output of the raw material sectors is declining, which entails a whole chain reaction. Thus, over the 10 months three percent less sulfuric acid, seven percent less synthetic ammonia and caustic soda, and nine percent less soda ash were produced than for the corresponding period last year. There was a corresponding decline in the production of mineral fertilizers—by nine percent—and of progressive construction materials (polyethylene and polypropylene)—by two to three percent. The production of chemical yarns and fibers continues to decline (by four percent) and the situation in the production of textiles and clothing is being aggravated.

Perhaps only the machine building complex worked more stably than the others, ensuring a 3.6 percent

increase in the total production volume in October and an increase of 2.1 percent over the 10 months. The conversion of defense sectors has ensured a marked increase in the production of equipment for the agro-industrial complex, light industry, and medical equipment.

The production of consumer goods over the 10 months increased approximately 6.5 percent as a whole. But the shelves are bare inasmuch as the population's money incomes rose twice as fast as planned. This was mainly what created the critical situation on the consumer market. The consumer did not notice the quite rapid growth rates for a whole series of cultural and consumer items—after all over the 10 months the production of washing machines increased 18 percent, the production of vacuum cleaners and radio receiver increased 12 percent, that of tape recorders 10 percent, color television sets 15 percent, and passenger cars and bicycles four percent.

As for daily necessities, for this group of goods the situation remained virtually unchanged. In January through October eight percent fewer stainless steel safety razor blades, seven percent less toothpaste, and 25 percent fewer wooden pencils were produced than a year ago; we did not manage to reach last year's level in the production of school exercise books and household soap.

The shortage in the production of tobacco articles is beginning to ease. It is true that according to the results for the first 10 months of this year nine percent fewer Russian and other cigarettes were produced than a year ago. But in October the tobacco factories came very close to last year's level. Considering the substantial import purchases of tobacco articles, it may be considered that the situation will improve by the start of next year.

The reduction in the production and purchases of a number of agricultural products could not fail to affect the provision of the industrial centers. According to the results for the 10 months, meat production fell four percent, canned food production three percent, and groats production four percent; on the other hand there was a two to three percent increase in animal fat, confectionery, and flour. Market trade reacted to the complex situation with a new increase in prices. In October 1990 prices were 40 percent higher than in October 1989.

With what are we approaching the end of the year? It is not enough that the country's industry has not even reached last year's level and that economic relations and plans for 1991 are taking shape only with difficulty. According to a study by the USSR State Committee for Statistics, as of 12 October 1990 only 37 percent of the contracts planned by the enterprises themselves had been concluded. (Last year by this date 65 percent of output had been made the subject of contracts). For nonfood goods—not counting light industry—contracts covered only 57 percent of the total volume of production planned by enterprises for 1991.

Freightcar Shortage Jeopardizes Furniture Imports

PM1411152990 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Report by S. Zheleznyak and A. Leonov from Romania; from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Reporter] This furniture could have been delivered to Soviet apartments long ago. Back at the beginning of the year our specialists bought it in Romania. Bought it in stiff competition with Western buyers who, being able to pay in hard currency, are increasingly displacing our orders at Romanian furniture factories.

They bought it, but it has done no one any good. The furniture dispatched to the Soviet Union is clogging up all the warehouses at the Siret and Dornesti border stations. Freightcars containing these top-grade goods are blocking all sidings and approach lines on the Romanian side of the border. On the other side the lines are different, and different freightcars, Soviet freightcars, are needed. These have so far been lacking.

It is difficult to say how many cables the Soviet trade mission has sent to the Ministry of Railways since the beginning of the year, and how many promises it has received in return. Both USSR Deputy Minister of Railways Sidenko, and Lvov Railroad chief Grafskiy are familiar with the state of affairs, but the situation has begun to change only with the approach of the winter.

Daily around half the requisite number of freightcars arrive, but the Romanians are having to repair one in two of these, and one in four has to be sent back because it either has no doors or has holes in the roof. If this is allowed to continue, vast quantities of furniture will have to stay here all winter. It is not difficult to imagine what the changes in temperature and humidity characteristic of this time of year will wreak on it. The local population, which has been unable to buy this kind of furniture in the stores for a long time, is getting more and more outraged. Some 400 suites of furniture intended for the Soviet Union have already been sold locally, at the railroad station.

As a result of the blockage which has built up, the Romanian railroad management is about to ban further shipments of furniture to the Soviet Union, and the factories are changing their clientele. They do not understand why we do not ship in the furniture if we need it.

Agricultural

Weather Outlook for Crops Detailed

PM1411115990 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 14 Nov 90 First Edition p 1

["Weather and Crops" report by agrometeorologist T. Rossinskaya]

[Text] The weather over most of the country's European territory was warmer than normal during the first 10

days of November. The average air temperature in most regions was between one and three degrees higher than the long-term annual average.

The minimum air temperature in regions northeast of the Petrozavodsk-Moscow-Perm line dropped from seven degrees below zero to 15 degrees below zero, and reached 23 degrees below zero in places. Frost, with air and ground temperatures down to five degrees below zero, was recorded in the remaining territory.

During the entire 10-day period, winter grain crops in most of the Northern region, the extreme northeast of the Central region, the northern Volga-Vyatka region, and the Urals region were in a state of winter dormancy under a cover of snow whose depth ranged between seven and 25 cm. Minimum soil temperature at the depth of winter crops' tillering node remained between zero degrees and five degrees below zero. Conditions for the start of wintering were satisfactory. Conditions for the hardening of plants—in view of the overcast weather and the excessive moistening of topsoil in several regions—were unsatisfactory in the east of the Northwest region, most of the Central region, the southern Volga-Vyatka region, the Urals region, and the north of the Volga Valley region.

Weak vegetation of winter grain crops was recorded on some of the first five days of November in the Baltic region, Belorussia, the rest of the Northwest region, the central Chernozem region, and the northern half of the Ukraine. The vegetation of winter crops ceased at the end of the first 10 days of November. Some 20-40 percent of crops thickened out here.

Winter crops in West Siberia were in a state of dormancy beneath a cover of snow whose depth ranged between two and eight cm. Minimum soil temperature at the depth of winter crops' tillering node stood at between five and 14 degrees below zero, which posed no danger for winter rye and perennial grasses.

Armenian Agriculture Failures Outlined

NC0911133490 Yerevan Domestic Service in Armenian 1730 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] If we remain true to the old traditions and deliver a ceremonial report, the emerging picture will be extremely stark and bleak. None of the five rayons surrounding the queen of the mountains, Lake Sevan, fulfilled the envisaged plans for the agricultural production and the contractual obligations. Milk deliveries were below the planned targets. The deliveries of this and similar foodstuffs were substantially below the targets in Vardenisskiy, Krasnoselskiy, Sevanskiy, Kamoyskiy, and Martuninskiy Rayons.

The results are not satisfactory in feed storage either. All the abovementioned rayons failed in this regard without exception. The farmers and farm machine operators in Kamoyskiy Rayon have barely managed to obtain just above half the total feed envisaged. The figures from Martuninskiy Rayon are also not exhilarating. The people of Sevanskiy, Vardenisskiy, and Krasnoselskiy have no grounds to be proud, either.

This discouraging feed harvest was not only due to the continuous drought; most of the damage was caused by the repeated blockades which disupted deliveries of fuel and lubricants. Consequently, a substantial amount of feed rotted because of overripeness and delayed transportation.

Red Moscow, the creation of the October Revolution, conducted itself in line with the unwritten misanthropic laws of the revolution and did not erect obstacles to prevent the inhuman and vandalistic acts of the authors of blockade.

Millions of rubles in damages were incurred as a result of these blockades by such enterprises as Kamo's Gegama, (?Vitol), and Ayrivan production associations, Sevan's machine and electrical glass insulators factories, Martuni's canning and carpet factories, Vardenis' gold mining combine at Zod, and a dozen other enterprises.

It is in such an unenviable situation, which calls to mind the tale of the broken vessel, that the workers in the agricultural and industrial sectors in Sevan basin are marking and at the same deriding the anniversary of the October Revolution by wholeheartedly cursing that accursed day.

This unworthy holiday is also being observed by the empty shops, whereas the markets are marking it by triple hikes in prices.

Scientific

Research Satellite Launched 14 Nov

LD1411161790 Moscow TASS in English 1611 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Moscow november 14 TASS—The Soviet Union launched another of its satellites today to continue space research.

The satellite's orbit has the following parameters:

—initial revolution period—92.8 minutes,
—maximum distance from earth in the apogee—430 kilometers,
—minimum distance from earth in the perigee—410 kilometers,
—orbit inclination—65 degrees.

In addition to space research hardware, the satellite is also equipped with a radio system to measure the orbit and a radio telemetric system to transmit data about its instruments and hardware. The satellite's equipment is functioning normally.

Dumped Radium Causes Contamination Scare

PM1411171390 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Report by S. Vetoshkin and V. Privezentsev; from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Privezentsev] At first it was thought that they could manage it by 1 November, but now the snow has already arrived, and take a look how many red markings there are on the stakes. Under each of them is a radiation source. The deeper down you dig, the stronger the emanation. This is retribution for old sins, for our criminal carelessness.

In the sixties this spot was on the outskirts of the city, there was a deep ravine here, and all sorts of things were dumped here. Including the notorious radium-226 which was used as a luminous paint for all sorts of purposes from medicine to children's toys. After Chernobyl it was decided to carry out a gamma-ray survey in all cities in Vladimir Oblast. And the radiation meters registered particularly high readings precisely here, in the vicinity of the "Fakel" cinema, two institutes, and student hostels. The "Shepeto" circus camped here virtually every summer, and people are saying that potatoes were even planted in this field.

Naturally, the most improbable rumors are circulating in the city, both about the ravine and about radiation levels. Here we are literally a few steps from a major source of contamination. What does the radiation meter register, Sergey Aleksandrovich?

[S.A. Makarenkov, Moscow "Rodon" scientific and production association radiation monitor] The geiger counter is registering 14-15 microroentgens per hour. That is normal background radiation.

[Reporter] Let us show the television viewers so that they believe us. You see, the reading shows around 15 microroentgens. Yet deep in the ground over there radiation rises to 10,000 microroentgens. That is very severe contamination.

[Makarenkov] Yes, it is severe contamination, of course. It must be eliminated. That is beyond question.

[Reporter] Naturally, only volunteers could be invited to carry out this work. And people have come forward. Twelve workers from the precision engineering plant, the "Elektropribor" plant, and the oblast hygiene and epidemiology station.

Computer Science Quarterly To Begin Publication

LD1411130290 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0800 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Summary] A new publication devoted to computer science, the quarterly PROBLEMY INFORMATIZATSII, will be pubished in the first quarter of 1991 and cost 1.40 rubles or 5.60 rubles for an annual subscription.

New Rules for Operating Nuclear Power Stations

LD1411171990 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0900 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Summary] The USSR Ministry of Atomic Energy Industry has introduced new rules for designing and operating Nuclear Electric Power Station's [AES]. Sidorenko, corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences has said that from now on the duty of designers and those who run AES will be to take into consideration and analyse the extreme situations which could lead to an accident. The new rules state that special technical devices should be included in AES projects which will help AES workers to act quickly in case of emergency. A concrete dome is to be built over nuclear reactors to prevent radiation leads into the atmosphere.

Military

Defense Ministry Denies Yazov Resignation Report

PM1511155990 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 16 Nov 90 p 4

[Unattributed report from compilation of "Reports by RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA and IAN Correspondents": "Moscow: Dmitriy Yazov Is Not Resigning"]

[Text] Having learned of a statement by the "Shield" Union for Social Protection of Servicemen about the supposed resignation of USSR Minister of Defense Dmitriy Yazov, the Ministry of Defense Press Center announces: This does not correspond with reality.

Commentary on Gorbachev's Meeting With Servicemen

PM1411170590 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Nov 90 Union Edition p 2

[N. Burbyga, I. Demchenko commentary on 13 November Gorbachev meeting with servicemen, followed by unattributed "Correction" to 14 November IZVESTIYA report on same event: "Difficult Dialogue Between President and Army"]

[Text] As IZVESTIYA has reported, the USSR president had a meeting with military people's deputies at the Central Theater of the Soviet Army 13 November. It was requested, let us remind you, by the participants in a conference involving servicemen-deputies organized by the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] at the beginning of November. M. Gorbachev agreed, and a date was set. The meeting was attended by servicemen-deputies not only from Russia but also from other republics.

Starting 20 September, the Russian government has three times addressed "military topics." First military chiefs and military experts whose units are stationed on the republic's territory were invited to the RSFSR Council of Ministers. Then servicemen-deputies were invited. And recently there was a meeting with leaders of defense complex enterprises.

This enhanced attention on the Russian leadership's part to problems linked with the Army has naturally not gone unnoticed by representatives of the USSR Armed Forces. The participants in these conferences themselves stated that events of this kind give rise to many rumors and misconceptions. For example, at the meeting with the USSR president one of the officer deputies said in so many words that the Russian leadership gets them together to test the Army's mood and is virtually attempting to use the views of servicemen-deputies to put certain demands to Union bodies. "If that is so," M. Gorbachev said, "I have to say that I am resolutely opposed to such methods." The USSR president stressed that nobody is entitled to play with such serious things as the Armed Forces and resolutely rejected suggestions that the Army is nurturing some sinister plans and preparing a military coup.

The fact that the Russian leadership has not been pursuing such objectives is known from the horse's mouth. Literally the day before, answering an IZVESTIYA correspondent's question, I. Silayev said that there are several reasons for the Russian leadership's interest in problems linked with the Army. "First," he said, "for a long time we did not know what the Army's needs and social problems were or what things were going on there. On the other hand, this is a very large sector of our society. Millions of people serve in the Army and many millions work in the defense industry. They have a direct impact on the socioeconomic situation in the republic. Finally, the defense industry has great latent possibilities which are not being used today but must be." The RSFSR prime minister also noted that in comparison with "civilian" sectors the defense industry is worse prepared in purely psychological terms for the market. The talented leaders and strong managers who work in it have never experienced financial and material hardships and it is hard for them to adapt to the new conditions. It cannot be denied that all this applies to a considerable extent to the Armed Forces too, whose representatives feel exceptionally uncertain as market relations loom.

The speeches by the servicemen—deputies of various levels working in various republics—were strikingly similar to each other. Almost all of them leveled complaints at the USSR president for not putting a stop to the attacks to which the Army is being subjected from the public, the mass media, and the leaderships of some republics. M. Gorbachev was repeatedly reminded that his duties as head of state, supreme commander in chief, and general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee include defending the USSR Armed Forces and Communists against "accusations" and "denigration." Many servicemen indignantly recounted instances of desecration of state symbols and monuments to V.I. Lenin and cited examples not only of draft dodging but also of rank disobedience of commanding officers' orders by privates, particularly new recruits, and increasingly frequent instances of desertion.

Of course, these problems cannot be viewed in isolation from the context of all the events taking place in the country. As M. Gorbachev said, when they are being discussed it is essential to take account of the fundamental processes going on in society and affecting the vital interests of the entire population. Moving away from old forms of life is a painful process and cannot be easy, of course. But it must be realized that we are talking precisely about moving away—from the administrative edict system and the stifling lack of glasnost and democracy to the active involvement of every person in normal life. The USSR president stressed that in practice a discussion about the very same things, with the exception of purely specific matters, is currently taking place in every region, every enterprise, every institute. And this discussion is very important because it helps to insure against possible mistakes in the future.

But this process, M. Gorbachev said, has nothing in common with breaking with our past, our history: "I would simply stop respecting myself if I had this feeling within me.... The past is where we all come from, it is our life, the life of our grandfathers, our fathers, and ourselves.... This is not simply a parting of the ways, therefore. It is not some parting of the ways with somebody back there, it is a process that is happening to all of us and within each of us, and this is the hardest thing." The results of this internal revolution must be channeled toward creation, toward the achievement of civil accord, toward preventing the division of society. And the role of institutions like the CPSU and the Soviet Army is very great here.

The USSR president's speech was repeatedly interrupted by shouts from the floor and noise in the auditorium. The things that related directly to the Army's problems were listened to attentively. In the end the supreme commander in chief, interrupted by officers, was driven to ask them: "Is this of no interest to you? I am not talking about this to you for nothing. If perestroyka proceeds in these main areas the atmosphere in which the Army lives and works will also be completely different."

M. Gorbachev stressed that the reform of the Armed Forces will proceed on the basis of the new military doctrine, the abandonment of the militarized economy, and the solution of servicemen's social problems. Work on draft laws linked with questions of reforming the Army brook no delay, he said.

Answering questions, the USSR president expressed confidence that the safeguarding of a unified Union's sovereignty requires unified Armed Forces. Manning principles must remain as they were, as is currently accepted practice: a professional officer corps combined with the drafting of the country's citizens for the fulfillment of military duty. M. Gorbachev said that servicemen are quite rightly raising the question of the need to defend the Army against unjustified attacks and the inadmissibility of destabilizing such a supremely important state institution as the Army and using it in political games. Both the Internal Troops and state security organs also need state concern and protection, he stated.

Among the notes handed to the president there was a proposal that information about nationality, party membership, and social background should be dropped from the entries in servicemen's documents. M. Gorbachev assessed this as surrendering and displaying weakness and appeasement. This is a matter of principle, he believes, particularly in the context of the national rebirth of the USSR's peoples.

As already stated, a particularly large number of questions were linked with servicemen's social problems, which have become very much more acute today and, all the indications are, will continue to concern society for a long time to come. M. Gorbachev said that by 1995 it is planned to considerably expand housing construction for servicemen, including with aid from Germany. One of the most important questions, he stressed, is the problem of maintaining the living standards of servicemen and members of their families, as of all members of our society on fixed incomes. It was interesting that one question asked was: Can an officer buy shares in an enterprise? In the president's opinion, if shares are on sale there are no obstacles to their being bought by all citizens, including servicemen.

In the course of the meeting concern was repeatedly expressed at the fact that USSR laws and presidential decrees are sometimes ignored at local level. M. Gorbachev replied that this is primarily a question of the precise distribution of powers between organs of power. It can only be solved by the conclusion of a Union treaty with new proposals for the organization of the power structure incorporated in the draft.

Correction

The speech delivered at the meeting by V. Lopatin, deputy chairman of the RSFSR State Committee for Public Security and Interaction With the USSR Defense Ministry and the USSR KGB, should be mentioned in particular. His words were frequently interrupted by noise, slow-handclapping, and shouts. Because of this yesterday's reportage distorted the thrust of what he said, for which the authors are to blame. We therefore consider it necessary to cite V. Lopatin's statement from the stenographic record:

"...The republics must also be granted the right to participate in the resolution of defense building questions. And today Russia is starting to exercise this right. On 12 November the RSFSR Council of Ministers adopted a resolution on the solution of questions linked with the reduction of the Armed Forces on RSFSR territory aimed primarily at resolving questions of the social and legal protection of servicemen on Russian territory. This is because reductions are taking place and troops are being relocated, but the republics are not being kept informed."

We offer our apologies to V. Lopatin for the inadvertent misreporting.

'Smouldering' Interethnic Conflicts Assessed

LD1411085990 Moscow TASS in English 0737 GMT 14 Nov 90

[By News Analyst of TASS World Service Andrey Orlov]

[Text] Moscow November 14 TASS—The Tuesday meeting between President Mikhail Gorbachev and representatives of the Soviet Army once again emphasised the Army's important role in society.

Recently referred to as "invincible and legendary" and as the pride of all people, the Army has become the target of much criticism in the press.

There are heated arguments about the Army's future and the prestige of the uniform is declining.

As Captain Aleksandr Medvedev from Moldavia, a participant in the Tuesday meeting, put it, "previously my parents were proud of my uniform, whereas now they fear lest it should get me into trouble."

Some overzealous "pacifists" in the Soviet Union have moved from insults against the military to physical violence: Attacks on military townships and casualties among servicemen have become an everyday occurrence.

The problem is also aggravated by the fact that in the smouldering inter-ethnic conflicts in various regions, it is precisely the Army that strives to maintain relative stability, quite often finding itself "between a rock and a hard place."

And finally, the inability of some commanders to work in the new conditions of democratisation and openness does not boost the Army's prestige.

As the meeting with the president has shown, it is now clear to everyone, including the military, that only military reform can meet the challenge of the times. It is required by both the changing nature of international relations and their transition within the East-West framework from confrontation to cooperation and by the current movement of the country's economy to a market and to a more rational structure.

It is also clear that a law-governed democratic state is in need of a different Army that would act exclusively within the framework of clear-cut legal norms.

The eventual form of military reforms will be in many respects determined by the development of events in the country, especially the pace of preparation of a new union treaty and its reception by the republics.

Only eternal optimists can hope that all republics will readily sign a new union treaty. The establishment of republican armies would probably follow a refusal to join a renewed union.

In terms of the Baltic republics, military units there would probably limit themselves to purely defensive

functions. However, in Transcaucasia a withdrawal of the Soviet Army could lead to an exacerbation of the inter-ethnic conflict, a regional arms race and threaten to create a conflict zone there, as difficult to resolve as that in the Middle East.

There is yet another aspect: Russians account for less than a half of the personnel of the Northern Fleet which is strategic in its functions, according to Colonel Nikolay Naruzhny from Murmansk.

Other servicemen have been drafted from the Ukraine, Baltic republics and Uzbekistan. What will happen to the fleet if any of the republics refuses to sign a Union treaty? Defend the boundaries of the Kola Peninsula? And what would such an approach do to the Soviet strategic potential?

The discussion also centered on principles for the formation of the Army. Without rejecting the possibility of switching the Army over to a professional basis in future, it must be apparently recognised that haste in this matter could produce results contrary to the expected ones. It could disrupt, as Colonel Pavel Krutikov from the Far Eastern city of Blagoveshchensk put it, "the last state institution still maintaining a high decree of organisation and combat efficiency" and lead to the loss of an important guarantor of the stability of society amid the turmoil of crisis.

These are not minor issues. The future—and not only of the Army itself—will depend in many respects on how they are resolved.

Defense Complex Leaders Meet RSFSR Politicians

PM1311143590 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Nov 90 Union Edition p 1

[Special correspondent I. Demchenko report: "Russian Conversion Plans"]

[Text] On 12 November the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Council of Ministers held a conference with leaders of sectors and enterprises making up the defense complex.

Yu. Skokov, first deputy chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, called the defense complex our national wealth, bearing in mind the sum of the funds invested in the development of these sectors over the years of Soviet power. The metaphor does, of course, exaggerate, but it has to be agreed that, despite verbose talk and extensive plans, we still make very poor use of the defense sector's tremendous potential. In the Russian government's opinion, this is a result not only of the ill-considered conversion strategy but also of the fact that attempts have not been made to interest the enterprises themselves in them.

Addressing the conference, Russian Prime Minister I. Silayev emphasized that the republic's leadership is not an advocate of the administrative resubordination of Union ministries' enterprises located in Russia. At the same time it intends to do all it can ito promote the speediest transition of defense sector enterprises to economic independence and their removal from sectorial structures.

This is to be encouraged, in particular, by the republic law on taxing the profits of industrial enterprises, whose draft the Council of Ministers has submitted to the RSFSR Supreme Soviet. The draft law provides that the profits of all enterprises of non-Union subordination, regardless of the form of ownership, are taxed at a maximum rate of 38 percent on Russian territory. I will remind you that, according to the USSR law, this rate stands at 45 percent for enterprises of Union subordination. Thus, there is a seven-percent bonus in an enterprise's profits when it is removed from a sector. It must be stipulated at once that the gamble here is evidently more on the psychological effect, because the size of the profits of defense sector enterprises has recently fallen noticeably. Nevertheless, if this draft law is adopted by the legislature, we should evidently expect a strong wave of privatization of traditional state enterprises.

In addition, I. Silayev reported that the draft republican budget provides for 12 billion rubles to be allocated to the conversion of defense sectors.

When this issue of IZVESTIYA was being signed to press, the conference was discussing Russian plans to implement conversion.

Baltic Republics

Coverage of Landsbergis Visit to United Kingdom

Calls for 'Demilitarized Baltic'

LD1011130790 Hamburg DPA in German 1235 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] Vilnius (DPA)—Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis has spoken in favor of a demilitarized Baltic. "With the independence of the Baltic republics a demilitarized zone between East Europe and the USSR will arise," Landsbergis stated to DPA today in Vilnius.

"The European home cannot be arranged without recognizing the borders of the sovereign Baltic states with the Soviet Union," the president stressed. In talks planned with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher during his visit to London, which begins on Monday, Landsbergis will underline the "Europe-wide significance of the Lithuanian question."

Landsbergis stressed that his talks with foreign politicians on the Baltic Republic's independence was also "a factor in the now deadlocked Lithuanian-Soviet talks." "Germany is not a very comnmitted on this issue," the president said.

Arrives 11 Nov

LD1211100990 Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 0100 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] In response to an invitation by the Lithuanian Association in Great Britain, Vytautas Landsbergis, chairman of the Supreme Concil of Lithuania, and his wife arrived in London this evening [11 November]. He was met at Heathrow International Airport by the Lithuanian representative in Great Britain, Vincas Balickas; chairman of the Lithuanian Association, Jaras Alkis; other leaders of the Lithuanian community in England; and also some representatives of the Foreign Ministry of Great Britain.

At an airport news conference, Vytautas Landsbergis noted that at next Tuesday's meeting with Great Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, he plans to discuss questions concerning Lithuania's participation in international politics. He will also discuss direct past, present and future relations between Great Britain and Lithuania. Vytautas Landsbergis also noted that Lithuania will seek to return to international organizations and forums, thus this subject wil be discussed during the meetings with Margaret Thatcher and other politicians.

The four-day program also will include meetings with Lithuanians residing in England, leaders of opposition Labor and Liberal Democrat Parties, members of parliament and of the House of Lords, and representatives of mass information media.

Landsbergis Meets Thatcher

LD1411155590 Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 0100 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Having met with Lithuanian Supreme Council Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis and having heard the most recent facts regarding relations between Vilnius and the Kremlin, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has expressed the desire to obtain a written document on this matter. This could be in the form of a letter by the chairman of the Lithuanian Parliament himself or a document by the entire Supreme Council or the Baltic States Council.

In a telephone interview with a Radio Free Europe correspondent, Vytautas Landsbergis said that this apparently would become a basis for diplomatic actions by large states and it indicates determination by Great Britain's leader for active politics.

According to the Radio Free Europe London correspondent, Margaret Thatcher received Vytautas Landsbergis in the manner of the president of a state. Moreover, instead of the planned 20 minutes, the conversation lasted 45 minutes.

Vytautas Landsbergis characterized the mood of the meeting as friendly, constructive, open, and generating a certain optimism that must always be peaceful.

Both sides spoke out in favor of establishing a Lithuanian Information Center in London.

According to Vytautas Landsbergis, most of the conversation centered on the situation regarding possible negotiations between Lithuania and the Soviet Union and about the situation following Saturday's meeting in Moscow where a new ultimatum was issued to the Baltic states.

In the words of Vytautas Landsbergis, the prime minister of Great Britain reacted to the Moscow position as economically illogical and inconsistent with the Soviet Union's measures regarding its own restructuring.

Margaret Thatcher expressed concern for what this may result in for Lithuania as well as the Soviet Union, for which it will signal an increase rather than reduction in economic problems.

Lithuania's aim to participate in the Helsinki process, was also discussed at the meeting.

In a Voice of America interview, an assistant to Vytautas Landsbergis said that he has formed the opinion that it is possible to expect some positive action by Great Britain regarding Lithuania.

Prunskiene Says Right Wing Trying for 'Coup'

LD1411123390 Moscow World Service in Russian 1030 GMT 14 Nov 90

[INTERFAX report; from the "Soviet Chronicle" feature of the "Soviet Union Day by Day" program]

[Text] Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene described the growing efforts by right-wing parties to overthrow the current government of the republic as preparations for a coup in Lithuania. She spoke at a news conference held in Vilnius. Prunskiene said that the actions of those Lithuanian supreme soviet deputies who, travelling to various regions, are inciting the population against the Cabinet of Ministers, are subject to examination by a parliamentary court. Unfortunately, she said, there is no such court in Lithuania for the time being. Romualdas Ozolas, vice prime minister, issued a public statement on this issue on 13 November. In particular he condemned the picketing organized by the extreme right-wing group League of Liberty outside the legislative building in Vilnius. The pickets demand that the government be replaced. Ozolas voiced regret that the Supreme Soviet has so far failed to adopt a law governing the procudure for picketing and demonstrations.

Prunskiene To Discuss Trade With Russian Leaders

LD1411153490 Moscow TASS in English 1436 GMT 14 Nov 90

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandras Budris]

[Text] Moscow November 14 TASS—Lithuanian Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene, who arrived here today, intends to meet Russian Deputy Prime Minister Grigoriy Yavlinski and Moscow Mayor Gavriil Popov to discuss the conclusion of trade agreements for next year.

Prunskiene said that Moscow is among major consumers of Lithuanian products, mostly foodstuffs. She wants to find out what Moscow's reaction would be if Lithuania had to discontinue these supplies because of its inability to get goods, necessary for the republic, from the USSR and the Russian Federation.

There was a meeting between Presidium members of the USSR Council of Ministers and government leaders from Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia in Moscow on November 10. The meeting discussed the compilation of draft state plans and budgets for the USSR and Union republics for 1991.

The leaders of the Union government insisted that the interaction between the centre and republics should be based on Soviet laws, the Soviet president's decrees and decisions of the Soviet Government until a new Union treaty is concluded.

Prunskiene refused to accept these conditions.

Holds News Conference on Talks

LD1411211190 Moscow TASS in English 2047 GMT 14 Nov 90

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandras Budris]

[Text] Moscow November 14 TASS—Kremlin's tough stance in talks with Lithuania will force it to seek "more realistic" partners, according to Lithuanian Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene.

Prunskiene met Deputy Russian Prime Minister Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, Moscow Mayor Gavriil Popov and visiting Western political and business representatives today.

At today's press conference in the Lithuanian mission in Moscow, the prime minister said the republic's current trading partners, who were prepared to continue dealing with it, could not guarantee goods in exchange.

In such conditions Lithuania will have to forge direct contacts with parts of the Soviet Union and Russia and individual enterprises, she said.

Such cooperation will develop in spite of the Soviet Government's "hostile attitude", she said.

On Tuesday, the Lithuanian Parliament and government issued a joint statement demanding that the republic throw open its borders immediately to ensure free trade and economic links with all countries, she said.

Prunskiene said she doubted the need to continue preparations for talks between Lithuania and the Soviet Union. The Soviet delegation at the talks is led by Prime Minister Nikolay Ryzhkov.

Lithuanian CPSU Condemns Anti-7 Nov Actions

LD1411165790 Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian 1510 GMT 13 Nov 90

[CPSU Lithuanian Branch statement read by Lithuanian Supreme Council Deputy Pirozkovas at the Lithuanian Supreme Council session in Vilnius—live]

[Text] Esteemed deputies: I have been entrusted with the task of conveying a brief statement concerning the events which took place on between 7 and 9 November.

In accordance with the USSR Supreme Soviet resolution and the decree of the USSR president, the traditional military parade and a well-attended demonstration of the working people devoted to the 73d anniversay of the Great October Socialist Revolution took place in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, on 7 November.

The parade and the demonstration showed that the ideas of Great October and socialist perestroyka are dear and close to the majority of the working people of the republic.

However, the leaders of the organs of the official authorities sought to disrupt the celebrations of Great October.

The authorities did not limit themsleves to urging the population to boycott the celebration. Provocations were made to express hostility toward servicemen of the Soviet Armed Forces and toward the participants in the peaceful demonstration.

The coworkers of the Department for the Protection of the Country carried out various actions against the participants in the demonstration from the Conservatoire building and allowed this to develop into clashes with representatives of the militia.

With the blessing of the Vilnius municipal authorities, the monument to the outstanding activist of the Lithuanian people, Mickevicius-Kapsukas, was destroyed. An attempt was made on the life of Shved, second secretary of the Lithuanian Communist Party, in Taurage.

The Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee declares a resolute protest against the tolerance of these provocations by the official authorities and warns that this is fraught with grave consequences. Such actions have nothing to do with the striving for consolidation and renewal which is everyone's duty.

We think that the Supreme Council and the mass media, which are subordinated to it, while speaking about the instigators of the incidents both during and following the demonstration, are distorting facts and misleading the public.

We are persisting in our demands to stop organizing provocations on the eve of negotiations with the leadership of the USSR and hold the organizers of these actions responsible.

Lithuanian Press Discusses New Government Issue

LD1311233990 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1630 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Lithuanian social democrats remain loyal to their stand and will not form a coalition with the Lithuanian Communist Party. This was said in a statement of the Lithuanian Social Democratic Party published in the EKHO LITVY newspaper. At the same time the KRESTYANSKAYA GAZETA published a statement signed by representatives of the independent Lithuanian Communist Party, the Lithuanian Union of Farmers, and the Lithuanian Forum of Youth. Its authors speak against a statement of a group of political parties and social movements published in (LITUVAS AJDAS) which, in essence, calls for the creation of a new Lithuanian government.

Latvia Planning Realignment of State Borders

LD1411121590 Moscow World Service in Russian 1030 GMT 14 Nov 90

[INTERFAX report; from the "Soviet Chronicle" feature of the "Soviet Union Day by Day" program]

[Text] It is planned to have the state border of the Latvian Republic established as early as next year. This was stated at a Riga news conference by deputies of the national legislature, who are working on a draft law on the state border of the republic. It is thought that the border will be in keeping with the outline of the Latvian borders that existed prior to 16 June 1940. In accordance with this draft, the settlement of Pytalkovo—its former Latvian name is Abrene—should be annexed from the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic and given to Latvia.

The deputies state that they intend to resolve conflicts that may arise during the Latvian border being established through negotiations. An INTERFAX correspondent reports that a special department of the Latvian Council of Ministers will be responsible for order along the border. The department will subsequently be turned into a republican Ministry of State Security. The full restoration of the state border will cost Latvia between 6 million and 8 million rubles.

'Legal Nihilism' in Latvia Threatens Economy

LD1411150890 Moscow TASS in English 1405 GMT 14 Nov 90

[By TASS correspondent Valeriy Zaytsev]

[Text] Riga November 14 TASS—As long as Latvia has not withdrawn from the Soviet Union, border patrol lies within the competence of the USSR, said Lieutenant-General Valentin Gaponenko, commander of the troops of the Baltic Border District.

"Two parallel structures to guard the border cannot exist simultaneously," he told TASS today, commenting on the bill on the state border of the Latvian Republic, endorsed by the Latvian parliament on Tuesday.

General Gaponenko, a member of the republican parliament, voted against the bill, which suggests restoring the 1940 Latvian border, at a time when an absolute majority of countries favour the inviolability of existing European borders.

Within several minutes the deputies to parliament on Tuesday adopted the first reading of two bills under which Soviet Army servicemen on Latvian territory would be disenfranchised.

The republican parliament today is expected to continue to discuss a document on measures to protect state property.

On Tuesday the project encountered a lot of critical remarks. It is planned to suspend all deals involving the property of state-run enterprises during its transfer, sale, or leasing that would lead to a change of the form of ownership of the property.

The government will have to transfer, without any legal grounds, the facilities of state Union property on Latvian territory to republican ownership.

Such legal nihilism, combined with unwillingness to seek compromises in relations with Moscow, is threatening to lead to an economic crisis in Latvia within a few months.

Latvian 'Blockade' of Army Violates Rights

LD1411202990 Moscow TASS in English 2014 GMT 14 Nov 90

[By TASS correspondent Valeriy Zaytsev]

[Text] Riga November 14 TASS—The Latvian Parliament instructed the republican government and bodies of local government to stop any social services and material supplies to Soviet Army forces deployed in Latvia.

A decision adopted today notes that Army units and a detachment of special militia (Omon) stage "illegal and criminal operations" in the republic, including the November 7 military parade and the implementation of the Soviet president's decree on the protection of the Soviet Communist Party property.

Parliament ruled to take measures to disarm the Omon detachment. It also instructed its presidium to set up a commission on assessing the activity of the CPSU and the Latvian Communist Party in Latvia and on settling issues concerning the CPSU's property in the republic.

It is an easy guess what reaction parliament's decision will provoke. "The blockade" of army units will affect, above all, members of servicemen's families—women and children.

This is a flagrant violation of human rights. As for the Omon unit, they are subordinated directly to the Soviet Interior Ministry.

Latvia Claims Sovereignty Being 'Ignored'

LD1311220390 Riga Domestic Service in Latvian 1410 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Excerpt] You will surely be interested in the reaction of the leadership of our Republic to the talks held yesterday in Moscow with Premier Nikolay Ryzhkov. In this connection, we have received an explanation from the press center of the Supreme Council.

The chairman of the Supreme Council, Anatolijs Gorbunovs, had a conversation this morning about this situation with the chairman of the Council of Ministers, Ivars Godmanis. There is only one stand: the sovereignty of our Baltic states, of the Republic of Latvia and its sovereign power, are being ignored for a certain time.

We have not and cannot have any other position than that which has been expressed in the declaration of 4 May. We will stand by our chosen road to state independence. This question will be discussed more closely in the late afternoon by the faction of People's Front of Latvia deputies in the Supreme Council. It will also be decided there when a response, and of what kind, will be presented to this ultimatum of Ryzhkov's by the legislature of our Republic. It can be expected that this will happen as early as tomorrow at the morning plenary sitting. [passage omitted]

Latvians Celebrating 7 Nov Could Be Disciplined

PM1311110790 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Nov 90 Union Edition p 1

[Report by Irina Litvinova under the "Direct Line" rubric: "After the Holiday—the Summons"]

[Text] Riga—It has been announced in Latvia that people who failed to show up for work on 7 November because they regarded it as a holiday should be called to account.

In the television broadcast "The Government's Opinion" on 9 November, Justice Minister V. Skudra stated that workers and employees should be disciplined and leaders of enterprises should have criminal proceedings taken against them. The minister said that despite the heavy work load of prosecutor's office staff the necessary reserves will be found. At the moment it is unclear how many criminal cases will be brought in connection with the October Revolution celebrations.

Belorussian Chemical Spill Causes Damage in Riga

LD1311231190 Moscow TASS in English 2207 GMT 13 Nov 90

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandras Budris]

[Text] Moscow November 14 TASS—Latvian specialists estimate the damage caused to Riga, capital of Latvia, as a result of the pollution of the Daugava River after the accident at a chemical factory in Belorussia, at 300 million roubles.

Ilmar Biser, Latvian deputy prime minister, told a briefing at Latvia's permanent mission in Moscow on Tuesday, that residents of Riga do not receive today about one third of water needed by them. For this reason, a considerable number of schools and kindergartens are closed in the city and 20 per cent of industrial plant shut down.

According to Biser, the situation is aggravated by the lack of laboratory equipment needed to test all toxic agents dumped into the river. He said the Latvian authorities had not received as yet clear and authentic information about the time and circumstances of the accident in Novolipetsk and the amount of products spilled into the river. In Latvian specialists' estimates, toxic agents began seeping into the river on October 31 and their account can reach 60 tonnes.

Speakers at the briefing said that measures taken in the republic to localise the after-effects of the ecological catastrophe already enabled authorities in the city of Daugavpils to switch on its water-supply system. At the

same time, the danger of polluting the coastal waters in the Baltic Sea, into which the Daugava flows, is still preserved.

Pyort Kucherin, a department head at the Belorussian permanent mission in Moscow, said at the briefing that the release of toxic agents had been the result of the chemical factory workers' negligence.

He said chemical factory's operators did not turn off a pump directing the toxic agent into tanks on November 3. Once this agent reaches the water, acetone and various cyanides are formed. About eight tonnes of the toxic agent seeped into the soil and underground waters washed it out into the Daugava.

Kucherin said that a Belorussian governmental commission was investigating the circumstances of the accident and the Belorussian public prosecutor's office launched a criminal investigation.

Latvian Foreign Minister Visits Italy

LD1411104990 Riga International Service in Latvian 1830 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] The visit to Italy by Janis Jurkans, foreign minister of Latvia, and Maris Gailis, director of the Department of Foreign Economic Relations at the Council of Ministers, ended yesterday. During the visit, direct political and economic contacts were formed between Latvia and Italy. In Venice Janis Jurkans met Italy's European Parliament Delegate Laroni. In the name of the socialist faction of the European Parliament, Mr. Laroni invited the Latvian foreign minster, as well as his Estonian and Lithuanian colleagues, after the conclusion of the Paris conference to visit the European Parliament in Strasbourg to address the deputies there.

The Latvian foreign minister, together with the official representaive of the Italian government in northern Italy, (?Garboni), spoke on Italian television. In an extensive interview they discussed how Italy could give Latvia (?humanitarian) assistance and also discussed the possibilities of exchanging students and specialists.

During the visit several agreement were also reached with Italian entrepreneurs on economic ties. In turn, the mayor of Trieste expressed the desire to establish friendship links with one of the larger Latvian towns because while in Trieste the Latvian Foreign Ministry appointed a Latvian honorary consul under whose care in the near future a Latvian information and trade representative in northern Italy will begin work. [sentence as heard]

Yesterday Latvian Foreign Minister Janis Jurkans left Rome for Vienna where he will stay until the 15 November. He will then travel to Paris.

Estonian Delegates Leave for CSCE Conference

LD1411101690 Tallinn Domestic Service in Estonian 0700 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] People's Front representatives led by Mati Hint began a journey by bus this morning to Paris from Tallinn with the signatures collected in Estonia for the Paris conference. Over 275,000 Estonians have signed a demand that the issue of the independence of the Baltic states again should be included in the Helsinki process and discussed at the Paqris CSCE confernce. The bus should reach the Estonian-Latvian border at 1100 and people from the Parnu area can still bring their signatures to them at that time. The bus will then go to Latvia and Lithuania for (?meetings) with people who think along the same lines and signatures collected by them will be taken on board. Representatives of the three Baltic states must reach Paris and (?hand over) the signatures by 17 November. A symposium (indistinct word) will take place that same day with participation by the Baltic representatives.

RSFSR

Ten Dead in Biysk Defense Plant Explosion

PM1411204190 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 15 Nov 90 p 4

[Report by A. Nadzharov and A. Parshintsev: "Explosion at Military Plant"]

[Text] At 1110 on 13 November, the city of Biysk was shaken by a mighty explosion—there had been an accident in a shop at the defense plant there. So far the bodies of 10 dead workers have been recovered. Another two workers are now in intensive care.

Journalists have been unable to ascertain any details of the tragedy. L. Khvostenko, a correspondent from the local newspaper BIYSKIY RABOCHIY, who was at the scene of the event immediately after the explosion, has described how not only journalists cannot enter the site of the classified plant, but even KGB and militia workers cannot get in, it is so highly classified. But she and some local leaders managed to get in, and when she was discovered she was severely warned not to report any details of what she had seen.

This is not the first accident at Biysk's weapons' enterprises. On each occasion this monster has claimed seven to eight lives. Plus there are those who have died prematurely from the various illnesses contracted at military plants.

Hitherto the information on this has rarely been made public. Today, however, everything is different. Unlike the enterprise's workers, the USSR KGB Public Relations Center has given the editorial office all the information at its disposal. That information shows that the explosion happened in shop no. 8, which produces

industrial explosives. A machine that blends the ingredients for the explosive broke down. As prescribed in such instances, a fitter was called to the scene of the breakdown. The tragedy occurred a few minutes after he began the repair, possibly as a result of a violation of the safety procedures.

According to preliminary estimates, the loss from the accident is approximately 100,000 rubles. The human losses are far more terrifying. They were mainly young women, born between 1959 and 1967. Six of them had children.

A government commission headed by O. Zabelinyy, USSR deputy defense industry minister, has arrived in Biysk. B. Yeltsin and I. Silayev have sent a telegram expressing condolences to the family and friends of the deceased.

Coverage of RSFSR Supreme Soviet Proceedings

Yeltsin Speaks

LD1311121890 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0930 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Statement by Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic (RSFSR) president, on his 11 November meeting with USSR President Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev to the RSFSR Supreme Soviet session in the Kremlin on 13 November—recorded]

[Text] The meeting took place on 11 November by mutual agreement. This was the second such big meeting, as you know; and so we agreed to hold part of the meeting, more or less half of the almost five-hour meeting, on a one-to-one basis and the second half with Ryzhkov, Silayev, and Khasbulatov participating.

We tried to determine who is to blame for the fact that some of our agreements have not been carried out and decided that no one was to blame. Then we went straight on to discuss issues for which we prepared and so did the president.

The first issue is the Union treaty. The president insisted on pushing through this issue and said that Russia can and must play a large consolidating role here in signing the Union treaty. My position is this: Our discussion was on a one-to-one basis. We have never been opponents of the Union and the Union treaty. And no one—none of the Supreme Soviet leaders, government, or the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet—has ever stated that they do not intend to take part in the Union and the Union treaty and be the subject of that Union treaty. What is more, I am astonished, as has been said, that some mass media, some correspondents are saying that Russia is pulling the Union apart by its decisions. I protested categorically at this point of view and expressed my conviction that the president has no suspicions on this.

If it is a case of our taking a more active stance—more active in the propaganda sense—then of course more could be done by both the president and the Council of Ministers, other republics, and us so that we move more rapidly toward signing a Union treaty.

But on the other hand I stated in what capacity and in what form Russia would sign a Union treaty. I said: You have not officially recognized the declaration of state sovereignty. You have not officially recognized the division of functions between the center and Russia, and you are pursuing a constant diktat from the center which is also what happened with the economic program, with the reform. In other words, everything goes through the center, and in practice the Russian Supreme Soviet and Government have no real power. In other words, you are continuing a policy of diktat, a policy aimed at preventing Russia from having its own voice and sovereignty. This is even a violation of today's Constitution, even ignoring the fact that it is hopelessly out of date, in the sense that the center should support the sovereignty of the republics in all possible ways.

For this reason I think these problems should be solved today, as soon as possible, while he believes these problems should be resolved after the Union treaty: Let's sign the Union treaty first, and then we'll determine what belongs to Russia.

We reached an agreement here but on the basis of a compromise. We agreed that a commission should be set up now, composed of representatives of the Union Council of Ministers and the Russian Council of Ministers under the leadership of the councils of ministers first deputy chairmen and that these commissions and their staff should begin without delay—work started yesterday—and that they should determine precisely the division of functions and also the division of property, the use of natural wealth, hard currency, debts, financial resources and tax policy, the banking system and the role of banks, the independent foreign economic activity of the Russian Federation, preparations for implementing reforms, the convertibility of the ruble, and the budget for 1991.

So I am saying this is the first package of issues. We agreed in principle then that this work should be carried out now, immediately, and that it should proceed in parallel with work on drafting the Union treaty, that the Union treaty will begin with an outline presented to the Russian Supreme Soviet in a few day's time. We will assess the outline and then take it from there. We should approach signing the Union treaty with a firm, precise, strong basis of what power we have, what we have in Russia, in our own Russian hands, so to speak. Thus on all the questions that I have mentioned, and not only on these, we intend to have a decision on functions, you will recall, my ministry, and so on—for those six ministries that we have left for the Union. Then the principle is the same for their work on Russia's territory, their coordination.

To put it briefly, the process which is beginning is the one which should have begun right after the declaration was adopted; unfortunately the Union leaders just could not manage to commit themselves to this step. Nevertheless, all this time they thought that it was possible, by strong-arm methods or cancelling some of our resolutions and laws, to make the center as it was. We said no, we will not go back now. Russia has set off on this road and it will stick to it.

I do not want to repeat here what I said on 16 October. On this issue we agreed on this: The two sides should be worked on in parallel, but until it is signed we should clearly have some other economic agreement on the transfer of power, ownership, and so on and so forth.

Second, concerning the government: I proposed the second version which was enunicated here on 16 October for a totally new system of state authority, in the first place, and second for forming a coalition government of national unity in which Russia would propose some government posts—the Russian Supreme Soviet. I did not propose claiming many posts—for the moment this was provisional until I had time to consult you—t for three: the Council of Ministers Chairman, defense and finance [applause] I did express this desire.

In principle support was forthcoming for forming a coalition government of national unity on this basis and for pursuing this line.

The issue of the Russian-speaking populations in the republics, in the Union republics, was discussed—the question that they require protection from Russia. There are serious grounds for this if we judge from the latest events in Moldova.

On the one hand it is now a question of republics which have declared their own sovereignty demanding noninterference in their internal affairs by another sovereign republic. We agree with this. On the other hand, if there is some kind of, so to speak, unequal rights attitude concerning various nations or nationalities then we have to render some kind of action. It goes without saying that we are not talking here about any kind of armed action or influence. Rather we are talking about steps by our legislature, political demarches, and so forth—and even more of resolute action by the center, the president, and the Union government.

You know that we sent a legislative delegation to Moldova. If you do not know I am telling you now. The delegation was headed by Krasavchenko and spent a long time working there. Yesterday I was speaking to the Supreme Soviet chairman and he felt that the delegation played a positive, a kind of stabilizing role. At least it voiced our position for us, that we will definitely not remain indifferent if the Russian-speaking population is going to be in some way held down.

Furthermore, we agreed all the same that if we could not completely avoid cancelling each other's laws or decrees then at least we would do what we could so that this is minimal, and to this end we will perhaps introduce preliminary harmonization. In the first place this would mean fewer confrontational processes, and in the second place it would not lead to decrees going, as some do, against the sovereignty of Russia, affecting the sovereignty of Russia and at the same time even cancelling some resolutions.

In addition, the Russian legislature is obligated to consider some decrees and decisions of Union departments, including presidential decrees, invalid on Russian territory.

We have decided that we need to hold meetings on a more or less regular basis and with this, to introduce preliminary harmonization on these kinds of major political actions, acts, laws, and decrees. Then it will be possible to have fewer of the misunderstandings we have had.

Our side expressed its dissatisfaction with the fact that international agreements are signed and the Russian Supreme Soviet and leadership do not know what these agreements are. What kind of agreement was signed with Germany, with Kohl? To what extent does it affect Russia's interests? As subsequently became clear, it concerns us to a significant extent because it concerns the early demobilization of soldiers and the return of hundreds of thousands of servicemen, for the most part to the Russian Federation, and also because it contains an accord on German compensation so that the demobilized men can somehow be settled more quickly and so that the best labor, work, and living conditions can be created for them. Then this part, this share should at least be proportional to the number of demobilized men sent to the Russian Federation.

But we came to an agreement on the following: We agreed that assistance will be rendered in setting up a Russian Foreign Economic Bank, Vneshtorgbank, since it needs to be backed by gold to some extent to actually operate. We agreed on this in principle. We agreed on joint control of monetary disbursements and also on a precise division of the Russian and Union budgets, not as was previously the case when Russia was merely included automatically in the Union budget.

We did not agree on having different taxation systems. We did not agree that 23 percent of the tax rate on profits should go to the Union budget. It is our view—and we will soon be discussing this law—that the figure should be no more than 10 percent. That is one option. There is also the option of precisely calculating each article of the budget [Yeltsin pauses, indistinct interjection from hall] including disclosing the military and KGB budgets and all the remaining budgets. We do not have such disclosed budgets today. And I said—this is the second time I have reminded you about this—as yet there is nothing to show for it.

Perplexity was expressed at the Constitutional Supervision Committee's decision on the congress decision on the impermissibility of combining posts. This decision

was a mistake. Furthermore, the decision was made after six months had elapsed, when our campaign was already coming to an end. In Russia only 12 percent of cases are left in which the post of first secretary and soviet chairman are combined. I think that if it were not for the committee's interference and its decision then, this process would have been finished without any fuss this year—without any fuss. We were quite right not to set any specific schedule, telling people to accomplish it by 1 August or September and so on. There may well be matters, personnel and other matters, which nevertheless require a certain amount of preparation; but in principle, he favors the division of posts although he refused to admit that the Constitutional Supervision Committee's decision was a mistake.

Setting up a Russian television and radio company and handing over Central Television's Second Program: Well, this time the president stated quite clearly that he fully backs this and will give the appropriate instructions.

I reminded him that at our last meeting we agreed that there should be a meeting between the Union minister of foreign affairs and representatives of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet where there could be a discussion of issues in general concerning the division of our foreign and international policy since Russia is now beginning work on it and should have one. We will soon be discussing the outline of our foreign political and economic activity. The outline has now been drafted by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Consent was also given on this issue.

On the issues and problems of the Crimea: We agreed that evidently there is no point in us and the center exerting any strong pressure here, but that we should respect the opinion and advice of the Crimean people and rely on their decisions; because experience has shown that a decision of Union bodies in this context, on the contrary, later creates destabilization and increases interethnic tension.

In principle, although not without complications, we did approach the issue that the CPSU should not have commercial activities. [applause] Note that I have expressed myself precisely. In principle we have approached this, but based on the experience of other countries and political parties. They operate on contributions, charity; and the only thing they usually have is publications, and publishing is permissible. Other commercial activity—and at the moment this commercial activity is getting up steam, this can be seen in Moscow and in our other oblasts, towns, and republics—that this will not do, all the more since joint enterprises are being formed with foreign firms where CPSU property is simply being secreted away. Here, as was said to the president, we will operate within the framework of the law, and so here we have to pass this law as soon as possible.

There was discussion on the problem of closed towns. He supports our proposal that there is a need to have certain closed facilities but that towns should generally be opened either by a decision of Union or Russian organs.

Military problems were discussed, problems of military reforms, albeit for the moment in general terms. But we finally came to a firm agreement that the practice that has existed heretofore, that if a special situation suddenly arises and the chairman of the defense council is, throughout our country, also the first secretary of the oblast party committee, that this position should be abolished and that it should be the soviets and the respective chairmen of these soviets which should be responsible for all activity during the period of the special situation.

We came to an agreement on matters relating to stationing troops and redeploying military personnel so that there will not be the kind of situation we had prior to the holiday and of which you are well aware, so that it is conducted with obligatory discussion and the participation of the leadership or representative of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet. We have in mind on RSFSR territory.

There was also discussion on—we have not rushed into this yet, although certain republics have made decisions—that if you are mobilized on Russian territory then you serve only on Russian territory. For the moment we have ground troops in mind. On this question the president tried to convince us that we should nevertheless wait a bit, while there is still a very heated situation in certain interethnic, that is ethnic and interethnic regions, while conflicts remain; our mothers, however, quite rightly demand: Why is it that our children, called up in Russia, should give their lives on the territory of other republics? You and I have to discuss this question and make some kind of decision.

It is a question of a mechanism, yes, for implementing or deciding on a mechanism for implementing this because we have made a start. We have already transferred the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs, say, apart from the construction troops. But when it comes to the military there is a very definite need for a mechanism to implement cooperation between bodies, particularly those that are not subordinate to the Russian Federation.

We agreed—taking into account the fact that after our first meeting actions that run counter to the accords were undertaken and to prevent such misunderstandings—to sign a protocol on all the issues discussed and then to act and put things into practice according to those protocols. I think you will approve this approach since neither I nor our delegation has taken even half a step that deviates from our principles in the declaration of Russian sovereignty on delimiting functions between the center and the Russian Federation or from the laws that have been adopted at the RSFSR Supreme Soviet session. It is not a simple matter, and I think we will be sending the protocol back and forth a few times; but the appropriate groups on both sides are now at work for such a protocol to be signed because it is needed in any case.

That is all I wanted to tell you about my meeting with the president. While the tone and character of the meeting (?were not basically harmonious), it was of course conducted from positions of principle, from the positions of our sovereignty of the Russian Federation.

Answers Deputies' Questions

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[Question and answer session with RSFSR President Boris Yeltsin and people's deputies following Yeltsin's address to the RSFSR Supreme Soviet session in Moscow on 13 November on his 11 November meeting with President Mikhail Gorbachev—recorded]

[Text] [Surkhov] People's Deputy Surkhov. Boris Nikolayevich, I think that everything you have said here, particularly the second part, is much as we expected. Everything is taken in a positive way, and one would very much like it to be so. But I am taken aback by several statements in the first part of your speech. You say that there is a certain accord with Gorbachev at the moment regarding the possible signing of a Union treaty and the creation of a coalition government.

You and I know only too well today that there are essentially two authorities ruling Russia and all Russians are already saying there are two authorities. Uzbekistan is a long way away, so is Kazakhstan—they do not sense this. So, I get the impression that we are saying a priori that they have a right to exist—the center, the Ryzhkov government, or if not the Ryzhkov government, some other government. However, as far as other republics are concerned, do they intend to act in the same way?

In this connection, my question to you is of this nature: Perhaps, before making any overtures to the center, we—Russia—should invite the presidents of all our republics, the chairmen of their councils of ministers, and the chairmen of their supreme soviets to come here so that together with all of them we may work out a concept of introducing future mutual relations between the republics and the Union center. Otherwise it seems that we want to give the old foundation a chance to live. Does Moldova intend to let it live, or does Georgia intend to see such a structure? In other words, your statement worries me, since you are already prepared for a coalition, but maybe the other republics are not prepared. So my question is this—is it not time that we gathered together on Russian territory and worked out a concept for all the republics?

[Yeltsin] Clearly you did not listen to part of my speech, so I do not agree with you. The point was that there wil be a new system of state power. (?We laid our cards on the table.) [word indistinct] he says, listen, there will not be a central power, it will be like this. Yes, there will be some kind of firm, definite power, maybe not like this but like that. This might not be the Council of Ministers; it might be a council of chairmen of the republic councils of ministers. In other words, a variant of just such a new state structure which you and I will discuss will be proposed in this concept of a Union treaty. But I said that substitution in any structure of offices in the Union and the center should be carried out on a coalition basis. That's the main thing.

As far as my attitude to Ryzhkov is concerned, I told him, the president, how we decided this. So, as far as meeting together is concerned, we have just made an attempt to gather say, four or five chairmen—and there was a big reproach, unknown to the center, some kind of plot; in other words they, the republics, also take this in a rather painful way. I think that it is not necessary for us to show any particular initiative in this respect. As we have agreed, we will pursue a policy toward signing bilateral treaties. In general he agreed that it could be the basis in the future for an economic [word indistinct] of the Union or some other form of a Union of states. He agreed that would be a Union of states. In other words, there was no mention of a federation, but precisely of a Union of states, sovereign states.

Microphone number two.

[Petrov] Petrov, 152d national territorial okrug. Boris Nikolayevich, as far as I understood from the report, it was mainly issues concerning power that were discussed; that is to say, who is to be given more power, as you say, so much to Russia and so much to the center. What about economic issues? Did these come up or not? So then, in connection with this struggle for power, the economy is losing ground in Russia: shelves are empty, productivity is dropping, discipline is falling; in comparison even in the Baltic republics, in the Baltic republics there is sufficient gasoline, while in Russian towns there is none.

[Yeltsin] I understand, I understand. Naturally, these issues were discussed. The issue of food was discussed in particular and, among other things, we discussed ways of supplying, in as short a time as possible, those large economic regions of ours which have a small volume of agriculture. Specifically, the general mechanism was discussed of importing foodstuffs now. We also discused the mechanism for ensuring that they do not disappear without a trace, and the establishment of a joint commission to inspect each consignment, how and where it is going, how and where it is traveling, whether it reaches the consumer, and which consumer it reaches. That is to say, this issue was discussed in a fairly detailed manner. The share of each republic was discussed and will also be discussed now when the Union and Russian budgets for 1991 are discussed.

We also spoke about the program. I stated that the lack of consistency of the decrees which have been adopted of late is connected precisely with the fact that there is no common program—there are main directions. From these main directions, each stage which one would need to implement—which was in that program—is, well, not altogether clear on the whole. But we reached agreement on such a plan of action, which on the whole we have,

and you heard an address by Council of Ministers Chairman Silayev who told you about this plan of action in connection with the fact that the program had not been approved by the Union. Of course we now need to introduce some modification to this plan of action in connection with the decisions on stabilization, which on the whole affect Russia's interest to a very great extent, and on the division, say, of currency, on national... [Yeltsin changes thought] on taxes, and so on, which were adopted by decree. All these are economic issues, and they were of course discussed.

[Leningrad speaker] I am [name indistinct] from Leningrad. Boris Nikolayevich, please tell us in greater detail about the discussion on the programs to stabilize the economy and to adopt market relations. This is because we, the Russian legislature, have announced that the 500 days program is going to be implemented as of 1 November. The Union has a different program. Will we agree upon a schedule of measures to be taken by Russia and by the Union? Will there be some sort of procedure for coordinating the reform steps of one kind or another in Russia and the Union? Will there be some sort of procedure for coordinating the reform steps of one kind or another in Russia and the Union? Will there be a permanent commission in charge of coordinating the work of the USSR Council of Ministers and the RSFSR Council of Ministers? Or will some other steps be taken to coordinate the implementation of the economic reform?

[Yeltsin] Well, to begin with, we must not get confused. There is no Russian 500 days program. You will remember that we were passing a Union program and the Union rejected it. That is why we must not confuse our people, letting them think that the countdown has already begun and so on, because it is the center that must be the first to get moving. It is the center that should have adopted five laws following which we, as it were—fifteen laws and, I mean—the program should have been started. [sentence as heard] This question was debated, however, and we agreed that special commissions of both Councils of Ministers should try to coordinate our plan of action with regard to stabilizing the economy and going over to market relations with the Union plan. This is because practically all republics now offer different programs and different plans of action.

I did ask how the Union would function in such a situation. Well, I mean, let me say that there was, as it were, no definite answer. Then I warned—please understand me correctly—that prior to the signing of a protocol—and I am relating the salient points of our conversation, our discussion—that we would have to all the same arrive at formulae and make them precise and later more precise—I already—or else we shall make copies and will simply let all of you have copies of this protocol. [sentence as heard]

Microphone number four.

[Yevtushenko] Yevtushenko. Esteemed Boris Nikolayevich, are you confident that once more the president, having heard you out, having come to an agreement with you, will not, after a certain time, give this up? That is the first question.

The second question: What deadlines have been agreed for the transmissions by, say, Gosteleradio, the second television channel? After how long is it planned to create a coalition government? Those are my questions.

[Yeltsin] I will answer the second question first. All these schedules are to be clarified, since they are different for each question. The division of property is one thing, the banking system is another, foreign currency yet another. Some are very urgent. The matter of currency has to be resolved now. We cannot just allocate 30 percent of foreign currency as the Union government has proposed. Some questions of supply will be resolved by a joint commission of the Councils of Ministers of the Union and Russia.

To the first question, concerning confidence, of course after the first meeting I was very seriously disappointed indeed, because certain accords had been reached and then not fulfilled. I think now that, with the signing of the protocol, about which the Russian Supreme Soviet, the mass media, and consequently, the people will know, hopes are somewhat higher from the point of view of fulfilment of that about which we reached agreement.

Microphone number one.

[Vorokhin] Deputy Vorokhin, from Rybinsk. Esteemed Boris Nikolayevich, the session of the local town soviet, discussing the deteriorating food supply situation, adopted an appeal to the president, to you, and to the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR asking for a ration card system of distribution to be introduced, guaranteeing a minimum quantity of basic food products at state prices. Apart from the fact that this would considerably help to stabilize the social situation and somehow ensure the peace of mind of the population for the period of transition to the market. I think there is a grain of sense in this. I would like to know your attitude to this and whether it was discussed with the president. Thank you.

[Yeltsin] This question was discussed and we really came to the opinion that this question could not be solved by centralized means, at least on the part of the Union. As for the Russian legislature, let us talk about it. I figured we would wait until the congress and somehow find our way there. If, nevertheless, the situation gets tense then we had better put the question forward for discussion by the Supreme Soviet and decide on it at the supreme soviet.

Microphone number two.

[Chaykovskiy] Chaykovskiy, Kaliningrad Oblast, national-territorial constituency No 41. Esteemed Boris Nikolayevich, I have two points. My first point: Do you not think it is time for us to create intergovernmental or

interrepublican commissions—let us say, Ukraine, Russia, or Belorussia, and so on—because a number of questions are already now coming to a head.

[Yeltsin] With other republics?

[Chaukovskiy] Yes, yes. Interlegislative commissions—let us say a Ukrainian and Russian one, a Belorussian-Russian one, and so on—because a number of questions on citizenship, on the protection of Russian citizens, on the internal market—well, I will not list them all, you're perfectly well aware of what it's all about. That is the first point: Has such a discussion been considered?

The second point is connected to this: Does it not seem that other republics may not even understand what we are saying? We are giving six ministries Union powers, and for three [figure as heard] of them—the Finance Ministry, the Ministry of Defense—Russia is already prepared to fill the vacancies, as it were. What about the other republics? There is also Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, and the Ukraine. They will also put in claims. Perhaps it would be better if the representatives of those republics were to be elected to those posts. Perhaps there really ought to be some kind of coalition, otherwise they will say it is diktat from Russia all over again. Thank you.

[Yeltsin] No, each republic decides for itself when adopting a declaration of sovereignty which functions it is transferring to the center. This, of course, largely does not coincide with our decision. A number of republics have more or less transferred functions to the center. Let us say one has retained the Ministry of Defense, the military, and the KGB, which we have transferred to the center. Other republics, on the contrary, have retained a minimum number for themselves and have handed over the greater part to the center. I think that that is a matter for each republic, and we will be unable to level out, to equalize here, even when drafting a Union treaty. We do nevertheless hold different positions here.

As for some interrepublican commissions, we thought that when compiling, that is, when adopting and signing bilateral treaties—oh, I feel that today the whole day has gone on discussion. Let us bring things to a conclusion, otherwise... [voices of protest from the hall]

You have not met the chairman for a long time, is that it? Yes, I understand, the questions are all matters of principle and very important. In the matter of signing bilateral treaties, he was somewhat delayed, including because I was absent and that general political matters have to be signed by chairmen of supreme soviets and economic ones by chairmen of councils of ministers; however, they are in a great state of readiness. Our affairs are in a great state of readiness.

In recent days I have telephoned the chairmen of the Ukraine, Belorussia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia, and the Baltic republics. In general, much has been done in the way of preparation. What we had in mind was that as soon as we had signed our treaties, we would immediately set up missions in the republics—a republic's mission here and our mission in the republic's capital—and through these missions to conduct all the questions that might arise, including the position of the Russian-speaking population or the problems that had arisen there. There will be a permanent representative there. Well, how many? We will decide depending on the republic, one, two, three, bearing in mind of course that it entails expense.

Premises have to be found for all of them at once, we have agreed on that. If you feel that an an interrepublican commission needs to be set up for this... [Yeltsin changes thought] It seems to me that we are going in for a lot of bureaucracy when we ought to be going more for direct links between enterprises. We should be going further and further, going for more and more. Only in that way can we free ourselves from the vertical diktat of the system of administrative injunction. If we go back yet again to the party monopoly of power, and then the soviets' monopoly of power, leaving the enterprises with no power, then we shall resolve nothing.

Microphone number two, please.

[Lesnogradskaya] Lesnogradskaya, national territorial constituency No 27. We have all just returned from working in our constituencies. The most bitter thing was that the empty shelves and the supply difficulties are being accompanied by pictures in the mass media shwoing some places where there are discarded, spoiled, and ruined foodstuffs and goods. All around, people were asking what was happening. Are any measures being taken by the Union or the Republic? Boris Nikolayevich, I express profound satisfaction at and welcome the fact that you held such a serious conversation with the president. I have a question. Was this question discussed, the question of stopping the terrible mafia-like actions that the mass media are showing? If they are really directed at making life worse for the people, please say if measures are being taken. If they are not, please give us the reasons. Was this matter discussed? That is my first question.

[Yeltsin] Right, what is the second?

[Lesnogradskaya] My second question is: On the 9th, a telegram with the president's signature was sent to the supreme soviets of the republics and the federation and the local soviets. The telegram shows the president's concern with the situation with regard to foodstuffs, supplies, and so on. So, do you not consider it right that such telegrams on the territory of the RSFSR should be signed by the Russian leadership, too, and not just the leadership and the president?

My third question: Was there discussion of the question—I have the telegram in my hands, comrades, you can read it—was there any discussion of the situation in the agricultural sector? We can all see that measures to raise the price of grain and other measures did not produce any results. If we go into winter in such a

position and are not ready by spring then other such measures will hardly help us to get out of the crisis. These are my three questions.

[Yeltsin] Is that all? With regard to the telegram, I am in agreement with you. It is necessary to sign similar telegrams, or at least a joint one. I am fully in agreement with you. Further, with regard to cases of sabotage, the mafia and so on, major profiteering in foodstuffs, these cases are ceasing to be episodic and are becoming universal. That is a fact.

You have been out in the localities. I also made a trip in connection with the major accident in Asbest where many people died. I was obliged to fly out there immediately. I spent a whole day there. I met with people, I had discussions, was present there, took part in the funerals, and it was necessary to assemble a commission and check how social questions were being dealt with, help for the victims and so on. That is essential. Then, the commission and the soviets on the spot can carry out their work more actively. It is necessary really, of course, to take part and we ourselves were present in the areas. Of course, I was able to see for myself—and by the way, I have been in Asbest about 40 times before, and I have never seen such a situation in the stores, never. Even though the attitude toward me was quite good, the conversations were quite tense at times and it was possible to understand people.

In short, of course, the president and I discussed the question of foodstuffs. I mention this once again. I have said what measures the Union government and the leadership are undertaking. Russia will receive its corresponding share, and we reached agreement about how this should be monitored. Moreover, we shall discuss this. We are approaching the Congress and at the Congress we shall be discussing the most important question, the question of foodstuffs.

All the same, I hope that the Congress will introduce rather radical decisions on these questions, not simply confirm a routine program but really adopt the appropriate decisions.

With regard to sabotage, the mafia, and so on. You know that a decree on speculation has been adopted. But there is very little hope that it will have a profound effect. We engaged in consultations in the leadership, in the Supreme Soviet, and the government on the first day after I flew in. We have the impression that we must now create a particular system for this, let us say in the localities. It does not matter what we call it, an emergency, an anti-sabotage, or some other commission or committee with certain powers and in each oblast and republic we must have permanent representatives, a Russian people's deputy, so that he should be, as it were, a link between that territory and the Supreme Soviet, in order to undertake some sort of emergency measures which need to be taken here in the center. Via this system, perhaps we shall manage to the maximum extent to block all of these paths. If you have any other proposals, then put them forward and let us have a special discussion of this question. Perhaps in a few days time we will put this question forward and discuss it.

[Minuyev] Deputy Minuyev, 886th Shalinskiy Okrug, Chechen-Ingush [Autonomous SSR]. Boris Nikolayevich, was the question of signing a Union treaty with the autonomous republics discussed with the president? What is your stance in this matter?

Further to this question: Concerning the fact that these republics are now declaring their sovereignty, what is the effect within Russian for the republics when they discard this letter A?

[Yeltsin] This question was discussed of course, and on the whole fairly thoroughly. I have not expressed any misgivings in the sense that in the RSFSR the autonomous republics at their supreme soviets have started adopting declarations of sovereignty and the rights of a Union republic within Russia. It seems to me that we must be calm. If we follow the Union path—I bluntly told the president that the Balts and other republics which had opted for independence had been antagonized—we would only aggravate the entire situation, certain interethnic difficulties would start, and blood would be shed in some places. For this reason we believe that as regards the republics—which have issued such a declaration and have made such a decision—this decision needs to be treated with respect, with respect.

A second question arises: What will interrelations then be like between the republic, Russia, and the Union? Say, for instance, that during the discussion in places I visited in the republic, with the chairmen of the supreme soviets who virtually all also visited me, discussions were held with each of them separately—more than one possible blueprint arises.

First, say that the republic is concluding a treaty with Russia within the framework of a federal treaty which we will conclude inside Russia—and it is being worked on, its preparation is under way—it will delegate functions to the Union via Russia; that is to say we are as it were the republic's guarantors of protection against Union structures. Some have agreed, some have not. But again I say that this a matter for the republic.

The second variant is that the republic concludes a treaty both within the framework of a federal treaty with Russia, but with the Union too. It seemed to me that this would be a very difficult route, a very difficult one.

Most probably—well, let us also... [changes thought] So, we must express our view; we of course did not adopt a specific decision there, but we even discussed the following variant: The 1923 variant is possible, that is to say, those republics which within Russia declared their sovereignty, as members of a Russian delegation they could all sign this Union treaty—as members of a Russian delegation. It seems to me that this is an interesting variant. Well, you recall 1922—in 1922 Kalinin and all the other representatives who signed. But

this is also one of the variants. That is why while discussing this we have so far not adopted this decision. Evidently this discussion will be adopted and discussed during the discussion of the draft Union treaty, because so far we do not have even a concept of this Union treaty. We have been told this concept will appear in three or four days from now.

[Ivanilov] Deputy Ivanilov, Moscow Oblast. Respected Boris Nikolayevich, mine are more like three proposals, as it were. The first is in connection with those treaties concluded with the FRG, Spain, and France, to the effect that we instruct our Foreign Ministry to bring to the people's notice the law on providing an economic basis for the RSFSR's sovereignty and to warn them that Russia will not be responsible for sums that are expended without the authorization of Russia.

The second: It seems to me that the delegation which conducted talks with the republics regarding the Russian-speaking population—my electorate told me about it—was not selected well enough. First and second, the talks were conducted in an unprofessional manner. For example, with Lithuania talks should have been held simultaneously with Belorussia, as well as with a part of our federation, like the Kaliningrad Oblast, which is next to it. Regarding the Russian-speaking population of Moldova, the Ukraine should have been brought in, because there are very many Ukrainians there, and so forth. At any rate, certain misgivings are being expressed, even certain discontent, that they were conducted in this way.

Third is the issue concerning the mafia. That is, the president should—somehow one must put him in such a position—he should or his procuracy should start work, or he should give us the right to nominate our own procurator of the Russian Federation now and confirm him. That is all.

[Yeltsin] About what?

[Ivanilov] Either the president or his procuracy present a set of aims which they are carrying out in the campaign against the mafia, or they give us an opportunity to confirm a procurator nominated by ourselves. In other words, the question should be posed more precisely. In actual fact you simply do not know that the procuracy in our country is centralized, so to speak, and the submission comes from the USSR Procurator. Either they give us the opportunity to make the choice ourselves or they....

[Yeltsin interrupting] I understand.

[Ivanilov] Yes, make a proposal to us.

[Yeltsin] Well, with regard to the last question, I understand the proposal. I consider it to be a correct one, and I will make such a proposal to the president. About all the negotiations: I have expressed dissatisfaction and disagreement with the fact that negotiations are being carried out without any preliminary discussion with, say, the Russian Supreme Soviet, with Russia's Ministry of Internal Affairs, and with the leadership of the Russian Federation as regards the interests of the Russian Federation; so that if, say, there is a visit to Japan by the president, and suddenly the question of the Kuril Islands arises, well this is of direct interest to Russia. I gave the following warning, therefore, that if you do not coordinate on matters, and if there is no representative of Russia or some other form in the delegation, then before your trip we will send a warning to those countries on behalf of the Supreme Soviet, saying that we do not accept anything that concerns Russia, and accordingly we do not accept any debts under any credits.

Altogether I will say this: That while he did not do so willingly, he did agree that some formula has to be found: He said that any question affects Russia, and I say all the more so, then. All the more so. We do not know what credits you are taking, what the interest rates are, or whether they are interest-free. You will say afterward how much Russia has to pay, presenting us with an accomplished fact. But it cannot be done like that. In principle he agreed, so we will simply have to work out a formula for these joint actions. With regard to the specific points—Spain, France, and Germany—it was stated that the sums which were agreed upon, so to speak—what proportion, what and how—we will be told this without fail. We will then discuss it. I am thinking about the specific sums. So far they have not been mentioned.

Microphone five please, I cannot hear you.

[Ivanilov] The last thing I said, that in my opinion with the Republic of Moldova and the Baltic republics, the talks have to be conducted on a wider footing, involving Belorussia and so on, and the composition of our delegation ought to be examined more carefully.

[Nesterova] Nesterova from Sverdlovsk. Please be so good as to clarify your response with respect to the 500 days program. The thing is that we have just heard from you that we have not adopted this program. I am very concerned, as a deputy of the oblast soviet too, by the situation which has arisen in rural areas today. for example, at the session of the oblast soviet, we have already adopted our own program in support of the Russian program [words indistinct] as is now formulated. What now? I think that this process has already taken place throughout Russia, and the orientation toward this program is perfectly clear in Russia. There is also the decision of the Council of Ministers on the matter of the 500 days having started 1 November.

[Yeltsin] I again want to repeat that the whole program was intended to operate over the whole territory of the Union as a Unionwide market. If there is only a Russian program, then I will remind you that then we have to have our own currency unit, our own customs, our own border, our own troops, and a number of other things. I spoke of this option on 16 October. This of course costs a great deal of money, time, and indeed effort in the

struggle with the center. In general, this of course then leads to the disintegration of the Union, which, as I have already said, we are against without a doubt. On the contrary we are in favor of the Union, a Union of sovereign states.

So we shall now take our bearings—although we shall correct this slightly—by the action plan which was presented to you here by the Russian Council of Ministers. It is based on the 500 days program. That is, practically all the actions are there, apart from those which the Union will not embark upon. This is the difference. If this is to be called a program—well, we can return to this issue, this plan of action, and amend it in some way and adopt it as a program. Every republic now is flabbergasted that the basic guidelines have been adopted and is now starting to elaborate its own program. Everybody reckoned that this 500 days program would take off because the republics supported it; but then such a powerful blow was inflicted which generally speaking threw us back by three months in perfectly specific actions—I, for example, am convinced of this. So action is now necessary in the first instance according to the plan which you have in principle adopted—I say you because I was not there at the time—and there is possibly a real need for some further discussion and amendment, and for this then to be adopted as a program. That is what is needed, yes?

[Voices from hall] Yes.

[Yeltsin] Well then, let us have a talk with the government and let us then submit this issue. Microphone number one.

[Tikhonov] Tikhonov, 304th....

[Yeltsin, interrupting] Excuse me a moment. With respect to support, I have to say that there is support: There is currently a mass of telegrams and letters from oblast soviets in support of the actions of the Russian Supreme Soviet and the decisions adopted, including of 31 October, for which I received more than a few reproaches from the president. Nevertheless, I will say that we will not introduce a moratorium. We will now watch how events develop in the discussion and conclusion of a Union treaty.

The first microphone.

[Tikhonov] Deputy Tikhonov, Constituency No 304, Kovrov. Boris Nikolayevich, I do not think that you had an opportunity during your discussion with the president to go into detail on the question of the military-industrial complex. However, taking into consideration the fact that more than 50 percent of the industry of this particular sphere is located in the territory of Russia—yesterday no doubt you are aware there was a conference between Ivan Stepanovich Silayev and the leaders of the enterprises—and now our enterprises, their leaders, and the cities where these enterprises are located, in particular the city of Kovrov, where the defense sector amounts to nearly 90 percent of industry, are in an extremely difficult position.

My question or proposal if you like is as follows: Would it not be possible to note in the protocol the need to make it possible in the very near future to withdraw these enterprises administratively from under the diktat of the center? That is purely administrative. But there is another very fine point here. Despite conversion, considerable capacities in the enterprises are engaged according to Defense Industry Ministry instructions. This evidently concerns a certain level of military doctrine which is in operation in our country. It might possibly be necessary to carry out a poll, to carry out some discussion of this issue, and review the situation, since very many enterprises yesterday complained that their capacities were being released, but that they were not able to use them. Thank you.

[Yeltsin] This fits into the framework of the understanding. Such a commission is now being established by the Councils of Ministers of the Union and of Russia. However, I think that you will agree with the proposal that the military-industrial complex and the discussion of these particular enterprises, so to speak, should perhaps to be given some kind of priority, that the situation as regards them should be resolved as quickly as possible. As a rule, these are major enterprises with a large number of problems, and now they are in such a state of suspense as to whom they belong and where they are that it is now simply impossible for them; cadres are starting to leave, and there are many, many other problems there. I agree with this.

[Tikhonov] Excuse me, may I raise a small supplementary point? Perhaps we ought to have in our government or in the Supreme Soviet apparatus, someone who would deal exclusively with this question. In my view this is a question of extraordinary importance, and the level at which it should be—well, I do not know, in principle I think it should be ministerial.

[Yeltsin] I think we should rather have a chairman of a Council of Ministers' committee. In no way, you understand, can we approach a candidature, because this is a complex issue; there is the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of the Defense Industry, and the KGB. At the same time, as I think I have already mentioned it to you—after my discussion with Kryuchkov, and in general the president, too, has now confirmed it—in general they will not object to the idea of our setting up our own security service, a Russian security service, with somewhat different functions to those of today's KGB.

[Unidentified voice] What about the industry, the question is about industry?

[Yeltsin] No, we take over these services, everything that is on the territory of Russia; we carry out a reorganization for their new functions, and this will be an independent service, a Russian security service. There will then be no Union structures of a Union KGB. They will be subordinate either to the Council of Ministers or the

Supreme Soviet of Russia. We have discussed the question of customs services, too, but here both the president and Ryzhkov made the point very strongly that this was impossible, with regard to transferring the customs service to Russia in places where it is on the borders of the Russian Federation. That is to say we have not yet reached agreement on this question.

Microphone number two.

[Tereshenko], Tereshenko, 204th territorial constituency, Krasnoyarsk Kray. Boris Nikolayevich, six weeks remain until the new year. The managers of enterprises in the localities are very much concerned that they cannot conclude contracts with enterprises in other Union republics. So I have this proposal to make: Perhaps we should once again make an immediate appeal to our president that a Union economic council should be set up immediately, and probably, as he is proposing, we ought to retain these old economic links, as they used to exist during these years. This has to be done immediately, because people do not know how to carry on living. That is one matter; and now the second: Probably, none of us recalls such a state of affairs in our stores in the last 50 years. Well, let us say perhaps, even if things are still a bit better with us in the localities—in Siberia for example than in Moscow—but probably, we cannot have such a situation when you look at the plan fulfilment in our republic. To where has all this disappeared? A commission probably should be set up; it should contain members of the Supreme Soviet or deputies of the Supreme Soviet, and it should carry out supervision from the place of production to the shop—that is, how much was produced and how much was sold in the shops. Perhaps it disappears either somewhere from the depots, or directly from the enterprises. That is the second matter. All this cannot just disappear somewhere. The third matter: Well, the Russian Supreme Soviet has already been working for practically six months. Can our president really not meet us and listen to our proposals, form the Russian legislature? Russia is, after all, half of our Union. That is a proposal to appeal to him once more.

[Yeltsin] He has accepted this proposal. Well, the question of time will probably now be addressed, but he has agreed. I said: It is high time you visited the House of Soviets, the Supreme Soviet. In general, he agreed. Concerning a commission, we have already discussed this matter, that we should find time somewhere, especialy on the subject of food supplies, and discuss what system we need currently, particularly for combating sabotage, speculation, and so on, where these things disappear to, because there are such things. I was in Kislovodsk for 12 days; every morning there was a meeting for about 2,000. It was impossible; questions and answers. Stavropolskiy Kray has decided not to supply food beyond its borders to anyone, but it has gone and sold abroad. In general, I said that the Procuracy has now been charged with dealing with these matters, and let the Procuracy make serious decisions; and such matters that we have, major signals, of a blatent sabotage nature, let the Procuracy deal with them and bring people to account.

[Unidentified speaker] Boris Nikolayevich, can I add something? It seems to me that we need to ratify the law on combating speculation. It is probably necessary for our press to work on this matter; otherwise, when a deputy is given a can of chopped marrow and a can of green peas the whole press immediately starts telling people about it. But where these mafias are working, where speculation is going on, everyone keeps silent!

[Yeltsin] As far as the press is concerned, just read our beloved SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA today. Yesterday there was a session of the Constitutional Commission; it was stormy, all day, difficult, but they still decided prior to the congress to publish the draft constitution, because there are many conversations, there are many texts that don't correspond to the texts that are passing through the Constitutional Commission. A decision was nevertheless made by a majority vote to publish it prior to the congress, to discuss it at the congress, and then to decide on a referendum. But today SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA does not have a word anywhere that the Constitutional Commission examined such a serious, important matter; and yet concerning their decision to bury Soviet power, our deputies were featured quite prominently in this newspaper today. I think it is a very correct proposal to ratify the law on speculation as soon as possible. [voices in the hall]

Well, this doesn't get in our way, perhaps there will be some amendments, but to present for ratification the law on speculation, the decree that was adopted. So, third microphone.

[Petukhov] Petukhov, National-Territorial Constituency No. 32. My question is as follows: Our legislature has passed quite a few sort of... well, not quite a few but several documents defending sovereignty and preserving economic ties. We have also passed a law requiring that presidential decrees and legislative acts affecting the interests of Russia be ratified. But what is actually happening at the local level? At the local level the arbitration and USSR Procuracy authorities simply stand up for Union laws, not ours, not Russian laws. This is now giving rise to very sharp clashes and an unpleasant situation. So either we need to get down very urgently to setting up our own procuracy, or else we need to pass some kind of supplementary legislation to provide protection at the local level against decisions by the USSR Procuracy, the USSR Supreme Soviet Court, and the State Arbitration Service, which is guided first and foremost by Union laws. Thank you.

[Yeltsin] It goes without saying that things are not proceeding in a very happy manner. I think that where the Procuracy is concerned, we need to make our decision—all of us here have not yet made that decision—and probably we need to endorse a procurator at the congress of people's deputies. Then we shall be in a

position to ask this question of our own procurator, who will have been endorsed by our congress, whereas at the moment he is appointed by the general procurator, that is, by the Union.

Okay, now microphones five, four, and one; then we finish. Number five, please.

[Yeltsov] Yeltsov of Constituency No 93. Esteemed Boris Nikolayevich. It is no secret to anyone that Gorbachev and his team were not elected by the people. They were elected at a CPSU Central Committee plenum—and incidentally that particular Central Committee no longer exists, there is a different one now. For this reason that team does not represent the people; instead, it represents the party, which is now bankrupt. Therefore I was very surprised when you said that this time Gorbachev can be trusted. Is it not more sensible to conduct talks with the Union republics? Incidentally, the Moscow Soviet yesterday acknowledged the supremacy of Russia. In light of this it would make sense to suggest to the center that it should move to whichever Union republic will agree to give it refuge. Thank you. [laughter, applause]

[Yeltsin] Well, as for being able to trust him you have to mark my words very carefully. I hope that...[laughter in hall] you will catch the subtlety of the way it was expressed—I hope that it was done with subtlety—that there is somewhat more hope than before, inasmuch as a protocol is to be signed, that accords will be complied with. Those are your words, not mine. Where the republics are concerned, I agree, let us really...[Yeltsin changes thought] Moreover, they are straining at the leash.

The Union republics also now feel that the center is not getting anywhere, it is marking time, decrees are not being observed. There is a general paralysis of authority. There is no faith in the Union government. Everywhere outside the center one can hear cries that we have no faith in the Union government. Yet how can one have no faith in the Union government and at the same time implement Union programs? As I see it, this is hopeless, and I told the president so. So what we have to do now is simply press ahead with signing treaties with the Union republics, placing our representatives in those republics, and making more active use of horizontal links, like those that are to come into effect among enterprises any time now. There should be treaties, and so on, because as things stand enterprises just do not know which way to turn.

Microphone number four.

[(Zasokhin)] (Zasokhin), Kamchatka. Boris Nikolayevich....

[Yeltsin, interrupting] We agreed—number four, number one and that is all.

[(Zasokhin)] Boris Nikolayevich. Right away I apologize for my question. I think that either you are not finishing what you are saying or you are pursuing some other goal, but the center now has only the diamond fund, and I believe that it is time to take it away. I am talking about the adoption of the law on protecting the economic sovereignty of the RSFSR. You have said absolutely nothing about what Gorbachev had to say on this law. In addition to gold there are also diamonds, oil, and all the other resources. I am interested in knowing whether the treaties that have been signed extend to this economic sovereignty, and what was your position?

[Yeltsin] First of all, I repeat once again that we did talk about this and he reproached me for this decree, the law that was adopted by the Supreme Soviet on the economic protection of sovereignty, or on the protection of economic sovereignty. He insisted that there should be a moratorium, as it were, and that we should, in the meantime, renounce that law. I said: No. The Supreme Soviet will not accept any moratorium—I know the mood of the Supreme Soviet. We shall now simply observe what the Union treaty will be like. We shall somehow join it and so on. At the same time, these commissions of the Councils of Ministers of the Union and of Russia—all issues—I said ownership, but it is also a matter of our national wealth, our natural resources; the point is that these commissions should prepare something on oil, on gas, on gold, on diamonds, on all metals, etc. This is all within this package. And these commissions should resolve all of this before concluding the Union treaty, which he is in a great hurry to do.

Microphone number one.

[Rutkin] Rutkin, member of the Supreme Soviet. Esteemed Boris Nikolayevich. During your absence a number of treaties have been concluded between the Russian Federation and Union republics. Tell us: We, the members of the Supreme Soviet, have not been informed or these treaties; what kind of treaties they are. But there has been a rumor that we are selling oil to the Baltic republics for 32 rubles [R], and we are receiving a pair of tights for R17.50. Do you know anything about this? Could you explain it? The thing is that the people are asking us at meetings. Thank you.

[Yeltsin] I only know that this is all taking place openly, and the committees that are dealing with this participate actively, and it is in practice they, the committees, that provide the proposals and conduct the coordination with representatives of the Union republics on these treaties. I do not think that the draft of every treaty should be submitted to the Supreme Soviet session. [murmurs from auditorium] There is no point in this. For ratification, yes. I agree that a treaty with a republic should, when it has been signed, be submitted to the Supreme Soviet for ratification—you see, you entrust it to the committees, the leadership, etc. And then we shall exchange the instruments of ratification with that republic, as we have agreed. And also, I think that you will not object when, if we are concluding a treaty with the Ukraine, we conduct these two procedures in different cities—the signing of the treaty, shall we say, in one capital and the exchange of the instruments of

ratification in the other capital. This will represent respect for each other. One of them, the first, shall we say, would be in Moscow and the other in Kiev—or vice versa—in Kiev and then in Moscow, insted of going with the idea that all the republics should necessarily always come to us.

14 Nov Session Reported

LD1411220490

[Editorial Report] Moscow Television Service in Russian at 2008 GMT on 14 November carries a 43-minute account of the Russian Soviet Federated Socilaist Republic, RSFSR, Supreme Soviet session held in the Kremlin on 14 November.

Deputies begin by discussing the RSFSR law on pensions. A deputy says that the remarks and observations have not been set out coherently.

A deputy then accuses SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA of slander with regard to yesterday's speech by Yeltsin, saying that a protest should be made.

Deputy Zakharov remarks on the effect of the introduction of the Union law on pensions for war veterans and Union regulations on insurance contributions. He discusses the funding of pensions. The introduction of new measures has been put back slightly. Next there is an interchange with the chairman as to whether various proposed amendments should be read.

The chairman then starts to go through the draft law, article by article. The occasional alteration is suggested and discussed, followed by a Finance Ministry official who gives details of the financing of the pension fund and answers questions about it.

At 2036 GMT, an amendment to article 8 is voted on and adopted. Then an unidentified deputy at the rostrum answers questions on taxation relating to the pension fund. A questioner states that the one percent tax proposed is causing much dissatisfaction and requests that the issue of whether to include it in the draft be put to the vote. A debate takes place between the deputy at the rostrum and the floor on the level of taxation and whether pensions should be funded in this manner. The issue of excluding the section on taxation is voted on and rejected; the section remains. An amendment by Deputy Lazarev is read relating to Article 9 of the draft. It concerns taxation of working pensioners being lifted. The commission is against the amendment: There are comments from the floor. There is a vote on Lazarev's amendment, which is not adopted.

Next a deputy from the floor speaks in favor of pensioners being ecouraged to work and states that pensioners who work part-time should not be taxed. A deputy at the rostrum says all who work should be taxed. There is a vote and it is adopted. The chairman asks for changes in the next part of the draft on retirement pensions since the first reading to be read. There are none. The chairman asks for specific amendments in that case to be read, and the deputy at the rostrum does so. The announcer says discussions of the pension law draft will be continued at the evening session. It is to be considered further tomorrow toward the end of the day when the rise in prices on certain goods became known and deputies asked the republic's leaders for explanations. After a discussion of the situation, deputies adopted appropriate decisions (no details given).

RSFSR Government Rejects Retail Price Measure

LD1411190490 Moscow TASS in English 1849 GMT 14 Nov 90

[By TASS legislative correspondents Lev Aksenov, Yuriy Kozmin and Pavel Ostrov]

[Text] Moscow Nov 14 TASS—The Russian Parliament has decided that today's decision of the USSR Council of Minsters freeing retail prices on some types of merchandise will not have force on Russian territory. The decision was taken just hours after the publication of the Soviet Government's resolution.

In particular, the resolution frees prices of jewellery, fur clothes, some types of furniture and delicatessen food, which it says "do not significantly affect standards of living."

The news of the price hike caused uproar at the evening session of the Russian Parliament. After lively debates, Sergey Sharkhay, chairman of the committee on legislation, moved to pass a resolution which effectively blocked the fulfillment of the Soviet Government's decision.

The resolution says measures of the Union government to introduce free retail prices should have no force on the territory of the republic until they are endorsed by the Russian Parliament.

The presidium of the Russian Supreme Soviet was instructed to immediately inform the parliaments of Union and autonomous republics on the decision and urge them to take similar decisions in order to stabilise the economic situation.

Council of Ministers Anticipates Unemployment

LD1411164590 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] An expanded session of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Council of Ministers, its first in its new composition, was devoted to the Russian Government's plans for next year. It was held today at the House of Soviets on the Krasnopresnenskaya Embankment. Speakers noted that Russia can expect further falls in production, with simultaneous increases in the population's income. The government discussed specific measures to revive the economy. Particular attention was paid to the federal budget, which ought to become an instrument for state regulation of the economy. As early

as next year, budgets at all levels will become independent. Considerable funds will be allocated to new provisions—for example, an unemployment assistance fund will be able to reckon on a minimum of 1 billion rubles. Taking part in the session were the heads of government of the republics that make up part of the Russian Federation.

Well, if you want peace, prepare for war; if you want a market, think about unemployment.

Yeltsin Sends Greetings to Emperor Akihito

PM1411142190 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 14 Nov 90 First Edition p 1

[Message from B.N. Yeltsin, chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet: "To His Majesty Emperor Akihito of Japan"]

[Text] On behalf of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet, allow me to convey cordial congratulations on the occasion of your ascent to the throne and Your Majesty's birthday.

New opportunities are now being opened up for setting up fruitful dialogue and all-around cooperation between Russia and Japan.

I sincerely wish Your Majesty health and happiness and prosperity to the Japanese people.

[Signed] B.N. Yeltsin, chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet

Shatalin, Yakovlev Invited to New Party Congress

PM1411100590 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Nov 90 Union Edition p 3

[INTERFAX report: "Is the Democratic Platform Going To Become a Party?"]

[Text] The founding congress of a new RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] political party formed on the basis of the Democratic Platform which quit the CPSU at the 28th congress will be held 17-18 November in the Moscow Movie Center. RSFSR People's Deputy Vladimir Lysenko, one of the members of the committee for the creation of the new organization, told INTERFAX that it will probably be called the Republican Party of Russia. It will be a left-centrist noncommunist organization whose main task is to revive the Russian republic on the basis of common human values via a market economy and the ensuring of social guarantees and political rights for every citizen. According to experts' assessments, the new party will be one of the most influential in the republic. Political parties and organizations taking part in the "Democratic Russia" movement, the leaders of the RSFSR legislature and government and the Moscow Soviet, and also two members of the USSR Presidential Council—Academician Stanislav Shatalin and Aleksandr Yakovlev, one of the most popular Soviet politicians—have been invited to the founding congress.

Leningrad Bodies Deplore Red Square Incident

PM1411140190 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 14 Nov 90 p 1

[SMENA-attributed report under the rubric "Have You Heard? Have You Read About It?": "If There Is a Gun, It Is Bound To Go Off"]

[Text] Leningrad—The shots that rang out in Red Square 7 November are still being seen as an unexplained sensation. The man who fired the shots turned out to be Aleksandr Shmonov, a former worker at the "Izhorskiy Zavod" [production association]. According to information from people who know Aleksandr, over the last year he did indeed participate in the work of the Kolpino section of the People's Front and the Free Democratic Party of Russia. He is described as a perfectly sensible person. In the past two months he was almost never at home in the hostel where he lived with his wife but was said to be at a dacha. His acquaintances had not seen him for the past few weeks. According to other facts, he acquired an old German gun for 1900 rubles around the end of October.

The coordination councils of the Leningrad People's Front and the Free Democratic Party of Russia have issued a statement on what happened, which says inter alia: "We believe that any manifestations of violence play into the hands of circles that are trying to destabilize the situation in society. Our organizations, like the whole Russian democratic movement, categorically reject terrorist acts and violence as a method of political struggle."

Sobchak Discusses Results of U.S. Visit

LD1011215890 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1530 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] Anatoliy Aleksandrovich Sobchak, chairman of the Leningrad City Soviet and a people's deputy of the USSR Supreme Soviet, has returned to Leningrad from his visit to the United States. Our correspondent Matvey Frolov met with him.

[Begin recording] [Frolov] Anatoliy Aleksandrovich, we know that you were received by the U.S. President. That is why I would like to hear from you of the businesslike and specific results of the visit.

[Sobchak] The main topic of our discussions, and I would like to underline that my visit was unofficial, was the topic of economic mutual relations between our country and the United States, and the forms of U.S. economic help and participation in our undertakings.

In this regard, I think the main result of the discussions was a clarification of the positions of both sides and raising the issue of the necessity of establishing a new mechanism and new approaches in our mutual relations.

I met with prominent bankers and businessmen. They are all interested in participating in the Soviet economy, first and foremost in the Leningrad region.

The creation of a free zone has aroused much interest. We have some very promising contracts in the pipeline, and negotiations are been conducted on signing such contracts. But all those interested are stopped, first and foremost, by our political instability; by our inability to distinguish between the prerogatives of all-Union, republican, and local bodies; and when every rayon is now demanding sovereignty. This all raises very serious concern, practically throughout the whole world, because this tips the existing balance of forces in the world. Today this is certainly a matter of particular concern.

First of all, this is of concern to us. But there is also a risk here in the purely economic aspect. To have anything organized in the Soviet Union, one must be able to break through all our walls of red tape, formalities, indifference, and the inability to work—and one still has no idea of the outcome. That is why it is of greater importance to us if the U.S. Government would guarantee the investments, because all U.S. businessmen and companies are saying: Give us guarantees; if you can give us guarantees then we will participate in your economy and we will be able to do a lot of things. We are trying to create within our free enterprise zone our own guarantee fund, but our capabilities are very limited.

If the U.S. Government could give guarantees to their own businessmen who are investing in the Soviet economy, then this would be a huge step forward in developing a new mechanism of economic mutual relations between our countries.

What I consider as the main result of my visit was relaying to everybody that I was talking about the actual necessity of changing the system of mutual relations. Something of more local interest was the organisation in the United States of a number of branches of the Fund to Save St. Petersburg and Leningrad, and attracting the attention of the U.S. public to this fund so that we can carry out some specific programs within the framework of this fund. [end recording]

Western Republics

Moldova Soviet Debates Dnestr Region Situation

PM1411171590 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Nov 90 First Edition p 2

[Report by correspondent A. Pasechnik: "Passions Seethe"]

[Text] Kishinev, 14 Nov—Passions are seething at the continuing session of the republic's legislature, fully reflecting the sociopolitical situation in Moldova which is heated to the limit. Local observers called the speech delivered at the session by the well-known writer and USSR People's Deputy I. Drutse yesterday's most graphic event. He stated that the republican legislature bears a considerable share of the blame for the present crisis situation. The legislators are paying blatantly inadequate attention toward problems of paramount importance for people's lives—agrarian reform, questions of ownership, and so forth.

At I. Drutse's suggestion the legislature adopted an appeal to the USSR Supreme Soviet stressing that the elections scheduled for 25 November in the Dnestr region threaten the integrity of the entire country and could cause civil war. The appeal says that the creation of a Dnestr republic will oblige Moldova to turn to the United Nations with a request that it examine the question of Bessarabia.

Yesterday the deputies began discussion of one more document of extraordinary importance: the legislature's draft resolution on additional measures to achieve civil consensus in the republic. Essentially this is the basis for the successful work of the Moldova Soviet Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet conciliation commission at the discussions and consultations which are now being conducted continuously with the rayons of the south and the Dnestr region. A whole series of measures have been outlined which should reassure minds and hearts and avert the disaster descending on the republic. In all there are 10 points in the draft resolution.

Now, as I am transmitting these lines, the session has only reached the third point—discussion is under way with very great difficulty. Some deputies—obviously standing on the principle of "no compromises!"—have left the auditorium. I saw recently in Dubossary where this principle has led the republic, erecting fatal barricades on both opposing banks of the Dnestr. God forbid I ever see anything like that again! That is why the entire republic is following the session so tensely now, relying on the legislators' intelligence and good will.

Deputies Walk Out

LD1411145390 Moscow TASS in English 1428 GMT 14 Nov 90

[By MOLDOVA-PRES-TASS correspondents Anatoliy Golya and Aleksandr Tanas]

[Text] Kishinev November 14 TASS—The Moldavian [Moldovan] parliament, engaged in a quest for ways to settle the socio-political crisis on ethnic gorunds in the republic, today had to suspend its work following a walkout by a group of Popular Front deputies.

They walked out in protest against a clause in a debated decision on measures to stabilise the situation, leaving the Supreme Soviet without a quorum.

As before, deputies from the Dnester region and Gagauz-inhabited areas stayed away from the session.

Before the walkout the parliament was able to endorse just two of the eight clauses in the decision, which is to be

presented as a proposal by the Supreme Soviet Conciliation Commission during meetings with representatives of the Dnester and Gagauz regions.

The bone of contention was a clause calling for officially "notifying the public that rumours about the accession of Moldavia to Romania are not true" and that "Moldavia will continue participating in draft work on a Union treaty".

The Popular Front deputies said the clause "is senseless from the standpoint of the parliament's earlier declaration of sovereignty, contradicts it and insults the feelings of the people of fraternal Romania".

The majority of the parliament, however, did not share this view. The Popular Front group quit the sitting in protest.

Gorbachev Invited To Visit

LD1411200690 Moscow TASS In English 1913 GMT 14 Nov 90

[By MOLDOVA-PRESS—TASS correspondents Aleksandr Goliya and Aleksandr Tanas]

[Text] The Moldavian [Moldovan] parliament adopted a resolution today to stabilise the social and political situation in the republic, aggravated by inter-ethnic conflicts.

The parliament addressed an invitation to President Mikhail Gorbachev to visit the republic in the next few days to help restore peace in Moldavia.

"Your position and authority recognised the world over make you a guarantor of stability and integrity of both the Soviet Union and its constituent republics," the invitation reads.

During a heated debate, the parliament was compelled to interrupt work after a group of Popular Front delegates walked out in protest against a point in the resolution.

Work resumed when the groups returned and the disputed point, concerning rumours about Moldavia's incorporation into Romania, was deleted from the resolution. It was decided to issue a special statement on the subject.

The approved resolution envisages a moratorium on the decision of the republican parliament denying the need to create a Gagauz administrative and territorial national unit on republican territory, tightening control over disbanding all voluntary teams and workers' self-defence detachments and liquidating all checkpoints and blocks on the roads.

The resolution identifies measures to ensure national minority rights on Moldavian territory. A department for nationality affairs will be set up under the republican government and a law guaranteed national minority rights in Moldavia is expected to be promulgated soon.

The government was instructed to proceed in its personnel policy from the need for an adequate demographic representation in the government and economic management bodies. The parliament entrusted the government with setting up a commission to improve the mechanism for implementing the law on languages.

The Moldavian parliament and government guarantee peoples deputies safety and immunity on all Moldavian territory. This provision should facilitate the return to the parliament of the Gagauz and Dnestr peoples' deputies.

The resolution will provide the basis for the activity of the parliamentary conciliation commission in the process of dialogue with the non-Moldavian population.

Russian Envoy Hopes Moldova Compromise Viable

PM1411094790 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Nov 90 First Edition p 1

[Report by Colonel N. Mulyar under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Compromise Still Possible"]

[Text] Kishinev—The RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet delegation which came to Moldova at the request of the representatives of the Russian-speaking population and on the special instructions of B.N. Yeltsin, chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet, is continuing work in the republic.

The delegation is headed by S. Krasavchenko, member of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the Committee for Economic Reform and Ownership. The RSFSR legislators have visited Kishinev, Komrat, Tiraspol, Dubossary, and other population centers.

As S. Krasavchenko stated to a MOLDOVA-PRESS correspondent, the main aim of the RSFSR legislators' visit to Moldova was to see for themselves whether the population of the left bank really have grounds for actions aimed at violating Moldova's integrity.

Speaking on national television at the end of work after meeting with the Moldovan SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] leadership, S. Krasavchenko noted that the situation in the republic still permits hope of finding a compromise although all sides must make concessions.

The tripartite conciliation commission met in Bendery on 9 November and in the village of Parkany on 11 November. The commission is headed by P. Luchinskiy for the Moldova SSR legislature, M. Kendigelyan for the Gagauz population, and A. Volkova for the Dnestr region. In all 32 people are taking part in the conciliation commission's work. One of the points of protocol No. 1 says: All conflicts which occur on interethnic or other grounds and create a threat of civil war are to be resolved solely by nonviolent and political methods through consensus and the achievement of accord among the sides involved. All attempts to achieve a solution by force are intolerable.

Ukrainian Military Service Ordinance Reported

PM1411163590 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Nov 90 Union Edition p 2

[Report by Sergey Tsikora: "Ukrainian SSR Prime Minister Appointed"]

[Text] A Ukrainian Council of Ministers ordinance puts the central organs in a highly delicate position.

Here is an extract from this document: "Ukrainian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] citizens should cease to be sent outside the republic for military service until the Union organs take decisions which will create the necessary conditions for the fulfillment of this resolution of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet." It is a case of new draftees serving only on the territory of the republic.

The ordinance was signed by Vitold Pavlovich Fokin, acting chairman of the Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers. It was the last document signed by him in his capacity as acting chairman. On 14 November the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet appointed V. Fokin chairman of the Ukrainian Council of Ministers, with 332 of the 376 deputies who took part in the ballot voting for him. The new premier stated that he hopes to create a government of national unity. V. Fokin also stated that the introduction of the republican program for the Ukraine's transition to the market, one of whose authors he is, begins as of this day.

Ukraine Party Blames Rukh for Political Troubles

LD1511110890 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0847 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Statement by the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Ukrainian Communist Party"—TASS headline]

[Text] Kiev, 15 Nov (UKRINFORM—TASS)—A statement by the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo has been pulished today in the republican newspapers. The statement notes that the second All-Ukranian Assembly of the Ukrainian People's Movement for Perestroyka [Rukh] took place in Kiev on 26-28 October. The work of the assembly, the atmosphere which predominated at it, the content of the documents which were adopted there, and also the extremist actions which the activists of Rukh and other opposition forces have been organizing recently, in particular in the city of Kiev, provide some grounds for evaluating the current character of the demarcation of the main political forces in the Ukraine. Today there is no longer any doubt that Rukh, following the wishes of its leaders, has turned into an anti-communist organization which is opposed to the "existing regime".

The Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo considers the statement by the leaders of Rukh, saying that the Communist Party is ready to carry out some sort of repressions and use force, and alleging that it is defending corrupt elements and sowing division and mistrust between the peoples of the Ukraine and between believers of different religious persuasions, is a vile political provocation and a crude lie. Honest and unbiased people can see that the Ukrainian Communist Party is consistently and unswervingly striving to unite efforts and to consolidate all the healthy forces in society, and is seeking a way out of the difficult position which the republic has found itself in. They can also see that it is the members of Rukh themselves who, while hypocritically calling for civil peace, are in fact making considerable efforts to create conflict and to destabilize the situation.

The Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo calls on citizens of the republic, Communists, the healthy elements in Rukh, and everyone who values peace and calm in our common home, to decisively rebuff the political extremists who are urging the people toward enmity and dissension.

Criminal Case Brought Against Ukrainian Deputy

LD1411205290 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] An unprecedented event happened at the Ukrainian legislature this evening. A decision has been adopted by a majority vote in the republic's Supreme Soviet agreeing to bring a criminal prosecution against and arrest Khmara, a Ukrainian people's deputy from Chervonograd in Lvov Oblast. The incident that took place in Kiev in the early morning of 7 November was the grounds for the commencement of a criminal case brought against him by the republic's procuracy. Young people of extremist tendencies, most of whom came from western oblasts, beat up Colonel Grigoryev, a worker of the criminal investigation department of the Ukrainian capital, and took away his pistol, his portable radio transmitter, and his identity card and money. At present he is in hospital. Khmara took a direct part in this action, and millions of Ukrainian television viewers were witnesses of this as they were given an opportunity to see the video recording of the violence against the militia worker.

Early Days of Ukraine Coupon System Not 'Easy'

PM1411122790 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Nov 90 Second Edition p 2

[Report by M. Odinets: "Coupons Are a Serious Matter"]

[Text] Kiev—Coupons for consumer goods were introduced in the Ukraine over 10 days ago.

The first days of "couponization" have not been easy. I will begin with the fact that the Ukrainian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Council of Ministers resolution "On the Protection of the Consumer Market in the Ukrainian SSR" caught people and also many organizations and establishments unawares. The document was made public approximately one week after signing, when the republic's printing plants had already printed all the

coupons. More than 66 million of them had to be produced. Uncertainty reigned in society: Would everyone be able to obtain coupons in time, and would the trade network provide customers with the necessary goods? It was even proposed to postpone introducing the system for 15 days. Such proposals were rejected for fear that people in the "shadow" economy would use this time for mercenary purposes. Incidentally, this also explained the "secrecy" in printing the coupons.

The republic government had to issue the appeal "To the Citizens of the Ukraine" which categorically stated that these actions are to protect people's interests and prevent the disintegration of the internal market.

Published on the eve of the [October revolution] festivities, the appeal officially summed up the first results of the switch to coupons: "Despite the difficulties and the resistance from certain working people who did not wish to give themselves unnecessary trouble, everything was implemented in a matter of days."

The experience of the first days has shown that coupons must be issued to large families for each child. Questions of pledging goods for the money of tour-of-duty workers and lessees, of selling perishable produce without coupons, and of issuing coupons to invalid pensioners as compensation for unused travel warrants to sanatoriums have arisen. The procedure for selling tape recorders, television sets, and radio receivers in installments has been revised, and the need has arisen to organize the pledging of small wholesale commodities for schools, hospitals, and kindergartens.

Practice attests that the compulsory rule of obtaining coupons from customers has not been introduced in all collective farm markets. In many of them meat prices have risen.

Irregularities over the introduction of the coupons are giving rise to negative attitudes toward these "consumer books." During the October demonstration in the Kreshchatik I saw a banner proclaiming "Coupons for the government, goods for the people!" This thought is also expressed in L. Zaliskiy's letter from Kirovograd Oblast: "If there are goods in the stores, I will accept and approve of ration cards and will vote in favor. If not, I need no innovations."

Opinions differ. Too little time has elapsed for categorical conclusions. One thing is clear: People want the efficient organization of trade and an effective struggle against speculation and the mass exporting of goods abroad by various "traders."

Burial of Chernobyl-Contaminated Soil Viewed

PM1411113790 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1230 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Report by A. Bondarenko and G. Benkovskiy from the "Television News Service" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] It is amazing how many years it has taken for us to learn the extent of the damage caused by the Chernobyl disaster. Decontamination of buildings, streets, and trees is still going on in Kiev.

[Reporter] Decontamination operations are carried out in accordance with a carefully drawn up map which features literally every yard of the city's territory.

This is the so-called "burial ground"—the place where radioactive soil from Kiev is brought. It is located 17 km from the city.

A section of an industrial waste disposal site has been designated for this purpose. The radioactive soil is dumped in trenches lined with polythene sheeting. When a trench is full, it is carefully compacted and covered with clean soil.

Irina Petrovna, are you sure that this "burial ground" is absolutely safe and secure?

[I.P. Pashnitska, chief of radiological department] Yes, I am. A radiation monitoring system enables us to assess the radiation situation not only here at the site but also in the surrounding villages.

Caucasus

Gamsakhurdiya Elected as Georgian President

LD1411175690 Moscow TASS in English 1741 GMT 14 Nov 90

[By TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi November 14 TASS—Zviyad Gamsakhurdiya was today elected Georgian president. He is the leader of the Roundtable-Free Georgia political bloc.

Gamsakhurdiya has been referred to as a Georgian Vaclav Havel. During the stagnation years, he was known as a dissident and human rights champion, and was persecuted and imprisoned by the authorities.

He is less known to the general public as a philologist and a holder of an academic degree.

In his policy statement in parliament, Gamsakhurdiya set out his programme. It envisages a transitional period before Georgia achieves independence and state sovereignty.

Major changes are planned in the republican constitution to clear it of "communist totalitarianism and the metropolitan dictate".

Gamsakhurdiya told the parliament that present power structures should be dismantled and future ones have a new democratic basis.

In the economic sphere, he proposed privatisation and demonopolisation as a way out of the crisis. Broad and equitable partnership relations are envisaged on the Soviet market and beyond.

Georgian Republic Restores Statehood Emblems

LD1411204490 Moscow TASS in English 2019 GMT 14 Nov 90

[By TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi November 14 TASS—The Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic in Transcaucasia will be called the Republic of Georgia from now on. This decision was today adopted by the session of the new Georgian parliament elected on a multiparty basis.

Stressing continuity with the Georgian Democratic Republic which existed between 1919 and 1921, the session restored the symbols of statehood of those times: the flag, the emblem and the anthem.

Elected president of the Georgian parliament, Zviad Gamsakhurdia, leader of the Roundtable-Free Georgia political bloc, read out parliament's address to all Georgia.

It stresses that parliament consisting of representatives of various parties will be guided by national and not local party aspirations.

The Georgian parliament today discussed the first reading of a bill on the transition period which will lead to the republic's full sovereignty and state independence.

The session will continue its work on Thursday.

Central Asia

Kirghiz President To Focus on Ethnic Peace

PM1411150190 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Nov 90 Union Edition p 2

[Interview with Kirghiz President A. Akayev by G. Shipitko; place and date not given: "Kirghiz President's Program"]

[Text] The 46-year-old Doctor of Technical Sciences A. Akayev, president of the Kirghiz Academy of Sciences, was elected president at the recent extraordinary session of the Kirghiz Supreme Soviet.

[Shipitko] Askar Akayevich, a few words about yourself to start with. Just to allow IZVESTIYA's readers to get to know you.

[Akayev] I graduated from the Leningrad Precision Mechanics and Optics Institute and took my candidate's and doctor's dissertations. I have lived in the city on the Neva for almost 17 years. I have a family; my wife is a systems mechanics specialist and head of faculty at the Kirghiz State University. We have four children.

[Shipitko] Your election is being linked with a victory for democratic forces in the republic. I heard that said when the election results were discussed. What do you think?

[Akayev] I was supported by the deputies' group for democratic renewal and civic harmony which represents, as far as I am aware, broad sections of the republic's population. Comparing the first session with the current session, I have been struck by the change which has taken place in just a few months. People capable not only of expressing their own views but of consistently defending them have appeared in legislature. That should be the case in a democratic parliament too.

[Shipitko] The president has a full range of powers. What ways do you envisage of exercising your powers?

[Akayev] Above all, power should be divided between legislative, executive, and judiciary. My task, as I see it, is to create an integrated system for these three organs of power to collaborate.

[Shipitko] Askar Akayevich, you were not a politician before. You have now become one.

[Akayev] I think that I avoid the burden of knee-jerk attitudes, and it is perhaps easier for me to get to grips with new thinking. During my year in the USSR Supreme Soviet I naturally joined in big-time politics, but I am receptive above all to new political ideas and new approaches to running the economy.

[Shipitko] Your first decree was to set up a Council of Ministers state commission for economic reform. Does this mean that you have your own concept for solving the republic's economic problems?

[Akayev] The cornerstone of the economy is the question of ownership. The republic has not yet determined what form it will take. Personally, I favor privatization. It is just a question of the form it will take and the mechanism for it. I have a great affinity for the proposals from USSR People's Deputies Academician Bogomolov, Bunich, and other economists who say that property should not be sold off, rather that the people should have the assets they created returned to them. We need to develop cooperative and other forms of ownership—including land ownership—in every possible way. There should be no ideological blinkers in this area because it is a question of the people's destiny and their prosperity.

[Shipitko] The deteriorating interethnic relations in the republic cannot fail to have an impact on the resolution of socioeconomic tasks. The extraordinary session at which you were elected president discussed the events in Osh Oblast at its closed sitting. This gave rise to a great deal of additional rumor and conjecture about what had happened. Moreover, the Osh events have led to a mass migration of people out of the republic.

[Akayev] The tragic events in Osh Oblast will have a substantial influence on the course of economic development, politics, and all spheres for decades to come. We should not play down the scale of the tragedy—that would be a mistake. If we are unable to improve interethnic relations and achieve civic harmony, then we will fail to implement a single economic program. All the peoples living in the republic have always lived together in harmony and created its economic base and national economy. Each people has its own place here. I would compare it to a clock mechanism, where the removal of a single part can make it stop....

[Shipitko] If I understand you rightly, we should expect presidential decrees aimed at improving interethnic relations?

[Akayev] Quite so.

[Shipitko] Does this mean that the president can and should be the guarantor of the rights of those people living in the republic?

[Akayev] This is one of my most important tasks and concerns, and I shall spare no effort in that area.